



Federal Subsistence Board

3601 C Street, Suite 1030
Anchorage, Alaska 99503



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Forest Service

Dear Reader:

The Federal Subsistence Board invites your comments on the enclosed proposals to change Federal subsistence regulations for the July 1, 2002, to June 30, 2003, regulatory year. These proposals suggest changes to Federal customary and traditional use determinations, as well as Federal subsistence open season, harvest limits, methods, and means for the taking of wildlife on Federal public lands in Alaska. The enclosed proposals address subsistence wildlife harvests only.

Comments may be mailed to the Board at the address noted above, faxed to 907-786-3898, or E-mailed to ASM@fws.gov. **Comments received by January 18, 2002, will be provided to the Regional Councils for discussion during winter meetings.** Comments submitted after the winter Regional Council meetings will be submitted to the Board for consideration at its spring meeting. Please reference the proposal number(s) in your comments.

During the public review period, the Board's staff will prepare a technical analysis on each proposal. In a public meeting in Anchorage, May 14-16, 2002, the Board will consider technical analyses, Regional Council recommendations, and public testimony in reaching decisions on the proposed changes. Final regulations for the 2002-2003 regulatory year will become effective July 1, 2002, and a regulations booklet will be published and distributed throughout Alaska at that time.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management, toll free at (800) 478-1456, or in Anchorage at 786-3888. Regional subsistence coordinators are also available to assist you, and can be reached at the telephone numbers listed on a separate page in this booklet. Hearing or speech-impaired individuals may call (907) 786-3874 TTY or the Federal Relay Service, (800) 877-8339.

Sincerely,

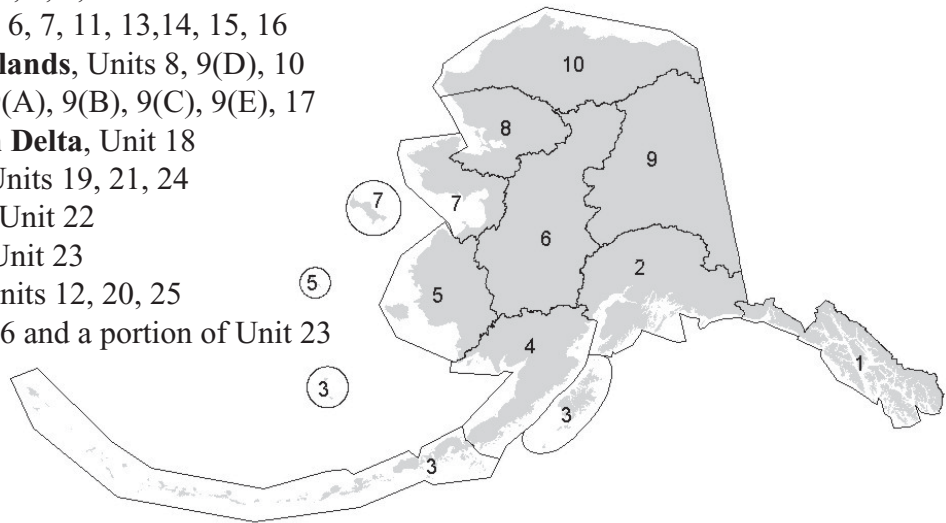
Mitch Demientieff, Chair
Federal Subsistence Board

Tentative Dates Winter Regional Advisory Council Meetings

Southeast Region —Hoonah	March 12–14, 2002
Southcentral —Anchorage	March 5–6, 2002
Kodiak/Aleutian Islands Region —Kodiak	March 18–19, 2002
Bristol Bay Region —Dillingham	To be announced at a later date.
Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Region —Tuntutuliak	March 6–7, 2002
Western Interior Region —McGrath	March 19–21, 2002
Seward Peninsula Region —Nome	February 26–27, 2002
Northwest Arctic Region —Kotzebue	March 21, 2002
Eastern Interior Region —Circle Hot Springs	February 25–27, 2002
North Slope Region —Barrow	February 20–21, 2002

Federal Subsistence Resource Regions

- 1** Southeast, Units 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- 2** Southcentral, Units 6, 7, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16
- 3** Kodiak/Aleutian Islands, Units 8, 9(D), 10
- 4** Bristol Bay, Units 9(A), 9(B), 9(C), 9(E), 17
- 5** Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Unit 18
- 6** Western Interior, Units 19, 21, 24
- 7** Seward Peninsula, Unit 22
- 8** Northwest Arctic, Unit 23
- 9** Eastern Interior, Units 12, 20, 25
- 10** North Slope, Unit 26 and a portion of Unit 23



For further information, contact the following Regional Council Coordinators:

Southeast: Fred Clark, 1-800-586-7895 or 907-586-7895

Southcentral and Seward Peninsula: Ann Wilkinson, 1-800-478-1456 or 907-786-3676

Kodiak/Aleutian Islands: Michelle Chivers, 1-800-478-1456 or 907-786-3877

Bristol Bay: Cliff Edenshaw, 1-800-478-1456 or 907-786-3870

Yukon/Kuskokwim Delta: Alex Nick, 1-800-621-5804 (ext. 257) or 907-543-1037

Western Interior: Vince Mathews, 1-800-267-3997 or 907-456-0277

Northwest Arctic and North Slope: Barbara Armstrong, 1-800-492-8848 or 907-442-3799

Eastern Interior: Donal Mike, 1-800-478-1456 or 907-786-3629

**FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
WILDLIFE PROPOSALS FOR 2002-2003**

PROPOSAL #	UNIT(S)	SPECIES	GENERAL DESCRIPTION	PROPONENT	PAGE #
STATEWIDE PROPOSALS					
Proposal 1	All	Brown & Black Bear	Include brown & black bears in the furbearer definition & allow parts to be sold	Craig Fleener, Fort Yukon	1
SOUTHEAST REGION					
Proposal 2	1 - 5	Various	Revise requirements for harvest for ceremonial use	Lt. Will Ellis, F&WP, Juneau	2
Proposal 3	4	Brown Bear	Revise harvest limit provisions	Honnah Indian Association	4
Proposal 4	1 - 5	Deer	Revise designated hunter requirements	Brian Merritt, Wrangell	5
Proposal 5	1 - 5	Deer	Revise designated hunter requirements	Mark Armstrong, Wrangell	7
Proposal 6	1 - 5	Deer	Revise designated hunter requirements	Petersburg Fish & Game Advisory Committee	9
Proposal 7	1(D)	Deer	Establish a season	Kevin Allard, Haines	11
Proposal 8	2	Deer	Revise harvest limits for various users	Kasaan IRA & Craig Community Association	12
Proposal 9	2	Deer	Close Federal lands during parts of the season	Kasaan IRA, Craig Community Association, & Hydaburg Community Association	13
Proposal 10	3	Deer	Revise designated hunter requirements	Andy Wright, Petersburg	14
Proposal 11	3	Deer	Allow limited take of antlerless deer on Zerembo Island	Harold Bailey, Wrangell	16
Proposal 12	4	Deer	Delete provision allowing take of ungulates from a boat (Deferred proposal 2001-4)	USDA-Forest Service	17

PROPOSAL #	UNIT(S)	SPECIES	GENERAL DESCRIPTION	PROPONENT	PAGE #
Proposal 13	5(A)	Goat	Split Unit into submanagement areas & close season by announcement when quota is reached	USDA-Forest Service	18
Proposal 14	1(C) & (D)	Moose	Establish a season	Kevin Allard, Haines	20
Proposal 15	4	Marten, Mink, & Weasel	Delete vehicle restriction	Hoonah Indian Association	22
SOUTHCENTRAL REGION					
Proposal 16	13(A), (B), & (C)	Caribou	Change harvest limit and shift late season	Copper River Native Association, Copper Center	23
Proposal 17	13	Caribou & Moose	Close Federal lands to non-Federally-qualified users	Copper River Native Association, Copper Center	25
Proposal 48	6(C)	Moose	Revise harvest limit and season	George Covell, Cordova	27
Proposal 18	7 (Kings Bay)	Moose	Close season	USDA-FS	28
Proposal 19	11 & 12	Moose	Establish a regulation for the harvesting of a moose for ceremonial purposes	Wrangell-St. Elias NP	30
Proposal 20	7	Grouse	Reduce limit for spruce grouse & close season on ruffed grouse	Bill Stockwell, Cooper Landing	31
KODIAK/ALEUTIANS REGION					
Proposal 21	9(D) & 10 (Unimak Island)	Caribou	Align fall hunting season ending dates	Kodiak/Aleutians RAC	32
Proposal 22	8	Deer	Revise hunt area boundaries & harvest limit	Kodiak NWR	33

PROPOSAL #	UNIT(S)	SPECIES	GENERAL DESCRIPTION	PROPONENT	PAGE #
Proposal 47 (a) (b)	8	Goat	Establish a C & T use determination and open a hunt (Deferred proposal 2001-15)	Ivan D. Lukin, Port Lions	36
Proposal 23	9(D)	Moose	Establish a moose season	Kodiak/Aleutians RAC	38
BRISTOL BAY REGION					
Proposal 24	9(B) & 17	Brown Bear	Revise Western Alaska Brown Bear Area description	Togiak NWR	39
Proposal 25	17(A)	Caribou	Align season in a portion of Unit 17(A) with State regulations	Togiak NWR	40
Proposal 26	17(B) & 17(C)	Moose	Align permit requirements with State regulations	Togiak NWR	41
Proposal 27	17	Beaver	Align harvest limits with State regulations	Togiak NWR	43
YUKON/KUSKOKWIM DELTA REGION					
Proposal 28 (a) (b)	18 (part)	Caribou	Revise C & T use determination & hunt area description & open season earlier	Native Village of Kwinhagak	44
Proposal 29	18	Moose	Open season earlier	Pete Peterson, Mountain Village	46
WESTERN INTERIOR REGION					
Proposal 30	21 & 24	All	Establish a n open harvest opportunity for funerary or memorial potlatches	Western Interior RAC	47
Proposal 31	21(E)	Moose	Revise C & T use determination	Pete Peterson, Mountain Village	48
Proposal 32	24	Moose	Establish a new Controlled Use Area	Jack Wholecheese, Huslia	49
SEWARD PENINSULA REGION					
Proposal 33	22	Brown Bear	Open season earlier & eliminate subunit distinctions	Seward Peninsula RAC	51

PROPOSAL #	UNIT(S)	SPECIES	GENERAL DESCRIPTION	PROPONENT	PAGE #
Proposal 34	22	Moose	Revise seasons, harvest limit, & restrict harvest to Federally-qualified subsistence users	Seward Peninsula RAC	53
Proposal 35	22(B)	Moose	Restrict harvest to residents of Unit 22(B) only	Seward Peninsula RAC	55
Proposal 36	22	Moose & Muskox	Provide for the ceremonial take of 1 moose & 1 muskox	Native Village of Wales	57
Proposal 37	22 & 23	Muskox	Increase harvest quota	Seward Peninsula RAC	58
NORTHWEST ARCTIC REGION					
Proposal 38	23 & 26(A)	Sheep	Rescind designated hunter provision	Northwest Arctic RAC	61
Proposal 39	23 & 26(A)	Sheep	Revise seasons, quota, announcement process, and add requirement to destroy trophy value of horns	Northwest Arctic RAC	62
Proposal 40	23	Caribou & Moose	Establish a new Controlled Use Area	Native Village of Selawik	65
Proposal 41	23	Lynx (Trapping)	Increase harvest limit	Roswell Schaeffer, Sr., Kotzebue	66
EASTERN INTERIOR REGION					
Proposal 42	20(E)	Caribou	Increases the harvest quota	Eastern Interior RAC	67
Proposal 43	20(E)	Moose	Revise season & remove antler restriction	Eastern Interior RAC	69
NORTH SLOPE REGION					
Proposal 44	26(A)	Moose	Extend dates for aircraft restrictions in the Controlled Use Area	North Slope RAC	71
Proposal 45	26(A)	Moose	Expand the open area and extend the season	North Slope RAC	72

PROPOSAL #	UNIT(S)	SPECIES	GENERAL DESCRIPTION	PROPONENT	PAGE #
Proposal 46	26(B)	Muskox	Revise the C & T use determination (Deferred proposal 2001-46a)	Dave Neel, Dalton Highway	73

Proposal 1

Existing regulation: State-wide - Definitions

§ __.25 Subsistence taking of fish, wildlife, and shellfish: general regulations.

(a) Definitions. The following definitions shall apply to all regulations contained in this part:

Furbearer means a beaver, coyote, arctic fox, red fox, lynx, marten, mink, weasel, muskrat, river (land) otter, red squirrel, flying squirrel, ground squirrel, marmot, wolf, or wolverine.

[Brown and Black Bear are not presently included within the definition of a furbearer.]

Proposed regulation: State-wide - Definitions

§ __.25 Subsistence taking of fish, wildlife, and shellfish: general regulations.

(a) Definitions. The following definitions shall apply to all regulations contained in this part:

Furbearer means a beaver, **black bear, brown bear**, coyote, arctic fox, red fox, lynx, marten, mink, weasel, muskrat, river (land) otter, red squirrel, flying squirrel, ground squirrel, marmot, wolf, or wolverine.

Reason for changing the regulation: To allow subsistence hunters to use bear hides and other parts. There are limited uses for bear parts and they could be wasted. Grizzly could be used for arts and crafts and sold.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: There may be a slight increase in harvest but I don't believe it will be excessive because bear parts are not extremely valuable.

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: This will benefit subsistence users by allowing them to fully use a resource and supplement their subsistence lifestyle with a resource that does not get used.

Additional information: Bear populations in most of Alaska are at very high levels. Three black bears/year is common [harvest limit] throughout the State. There are concerns about poaching increasing but I've consulted Ted Pappas of the Western Canadian Raw Fur Auction in Canada, where sale of bear parts has been legal for a long time, and he said that harvests have not increased significantly. Mr. Pappas also reported that the average price paid for a black bear hide is about \$ 60.00.

Proposed by: Craig L. Fleener, Fort Yukon

Proposal 2

Existing regulation: Units 1 - 5

(C) You may take wildlife outside the seasons or harvest limits provided in this part for food in traditional religious ceremonies which are part of a funerary or mortuary cycle, including memorial potlatches, if:

- (1) The person organizing the religious ceremony, or designee, contact the appropriate Federal land management agency prior to taking or attempting to take game and provides to the appropriate Federal land managing agency the name of the decedent, the nature of the ceremony, the species and number to be taken, and the Unit(s) in which the taking will occur;
- (2) The taking does not violate recognized principles of fish and wildlife conservation;
- (3) Each person who takes wildlife under this section must, as soon as practicable, and not more than 15 days after the harvest, submit a written report to the appropriate Federal land managing agency, specifying the harvester's name and address, the number, sex and species of wildlife taken, the date and locations of the taking, and the name of the decedent for whom the ceremony was held;
- (4) No permit or harvest ticket is required for taking under this section; however, the harvester must be an Alaska rural resident with customary and traditional use in that area where the harvesting will occur;

Proposed regulation: Units 1 - 5

(C) You may take wildlife outside the seasons or harvest limits provided in this part for food in traditional religious ceremonies which are part of a funerary or mortuary cycle, including memorial potlatches, if:

- (1) The person organizing the religious ceremony, or designee, contact the appropriate Federal land management agency prior to taking or attempting to take game and provides to the appropriate Federal land managing agency the name of the decedent, the nature of the ceremony, the species and number to be taken, and the Unit(s) in which the taking will occur;
- (2) The taking does not violate recognized principles of fish and wildlife conservation;
- (3) Each person who takes wildlife under this section must, as soon as practicable, and not more than 15 days after the harvest, submit a written report to the appropriate Federal land managing agency, specifying the harvester's name and address, the number, sex and species of wildlife taken, the date and locations of the taking, and the name of the decedent for whom the ceremony was held;
- (4) No permit or harvest ticket is required for taking under this section; however, the harvester must be an Alaska rural resident with customary and traditional use in that area where the harvesting will occur;
- (5) A request for taking wildlife is reviewed and approved by the local Tribal association where the harvest is to occur;**

Reason for changing the regulation: To protect the resource and rights of the local residents from those obtaining these permits and harvesting game in communities that they do not reside in, i.e. Sitka residents harvesting game in Hoonah instead of Sitka. This would protect the rights and resources for Hoonah residents, etc.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: Prevent overharvesting.

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: Protect their rights from outside users and support and empower local Native traditional councils in participating in resource management and use.

Proposed by: Lt. Will Ellis, F&WP, Juneau

Proposal 3

Existing regulation: Unit 4 - Brown Bear

§___.26(m)(4)(iii)(D) Five Federal registration permits will be issued for the taking of brown bear for educational purposes associated with teaching customary and traditional subsistence harvest and use practices. Any bear taken under an educational permit would count in an individual's one bear every four regulatory years limit.

Proposed regulation: Unit 4 - Brown Bear

§___.26(m)(4)(iii)(D) Five Federal registration permits will be issued for the taking of brown bear for educational purposes associated with teaching customary and traditional subsistence harvest and use practices. Any bear taken under an educational permit would **not** count in an individual's one bear every four regulatory years limit.

Reason for changing the regulation: It is unfair to penalize a subsistence user who is involved in a Cultural Education Program from personal subsistence activity and opportunity.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: Will not have a profound impact.

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: Traditional users will be more inclined to participate in C & T Educational projects.

Proposed by: Hoonah Indian Association, Hoonah

Proposal 4

Existing regulation: Units 1 - 5 - Deer

A Federally-qualified subsistence user (recipient) may designate another Federally-qualified subsistence user to take deer on his or her behalf unless the recipient is a member of a community operating under a community harvest system. The designated hunter must obtain a designated hunter permit and must return a completed harvest report. The designated hunter may hunt for any number of recipients but may have no more than two harvest limits in his/her possession at any one time.

Proposed regulation: Units 1 - 5 - Deer

A Federally-qualified subsistence user (recipient) may designate another Federally-qualified subsistence user to take deer on his or her behalf unless the recipient is a member of a community operating under a community harvest system. The designated hunter must obtain a designated hunter permit and must return a completed harvest report. ~~The designated hunter may hunt for any number of recipients but may have no more than two harvest limits in his/her possession at any one time.~~ **A designated federal proxy hunter may proxy hunt for one individual in their own family only. Each family may have only one person that is proxy hunting for another member of their immediate family. The proxy hunter can choose who the one person they proxy hunt for is.**

Reason for changing the regulation: I would like to see the federal proxy hunter designation changed at least in the SE Alaska area so that a hunter could only proxy hunt for one other person in their immediate family and each family is only allowed to have one proxy hunter per family. The way the current regulation reads as far as I know is that a hunter can proxy hunt for as many people as they want to. In the Wrangell area a number of individuals are shooting 20-40 bucks a year. Many of these deer are not even needed by these blood thirsty individuals families yet they are allowed to keep hunting only because of the designated federal proxy hunter program. In the Wrangell area a number of hunters are killing way more bucks than their families can eat. Some guys have killed 20-40 bucks in one year on Zarembo Island which is obviously way more than a family could eat. Since these blood thirsty hunters are shooting so many more deer, it makes it more difficult for the other hunters to get deer. I have been hunting Zarembo Island for the last ten years and I have watched the overall population of mature bucks rapidly decline due to an over harvest by a small group of greedy hunters. Hunting should be a recreation for the young and old to participate in. On Zarembo Island it is getting very difficult for young and old hunters to get a deer mainly because the kids are in school during the week and the greedy federal proxy hunters stay hunting for weeks at a time and they shoot lots of deer from the road or close proximity. Obviously the older hunters don't hike as far back as the younger ones. Limiting how many deer a person can shoot would leave more of the resource for everybody. Some of the proxy hunters I know, won't pass up a spike or any legal deer even though they have shot 15 or more bucks already that same year. This is why I refer to them as blood thirsty. I have hunted for one person as a federal proxy hunter myself, but I recognize there is a limited amount of deer and there isn't enough animals for everyone to shoot 15 or more deer a year especially off the same island! One must keep in mind why the proxy hunter regulation

was put into effect. It was to allow younger hunters to get game for elderly or handicapped people that used to harvest the local game themselves, not allow greedy, blood thirsty hunters the right to shoot everything in sight! Another reason this Federal Proxy Hunter program should be changed is if it is changed to my wording then it would closely line up with the State of Alaska's proxy hunter program, which only allows a hunter to hunt for one beneficiary and the beneficiary has to be blind, over 55, or 70% disabled.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: The deer population, especially the bucks will increase. The increase will not be so dramatic as to over-populate the species, but by limiting the number of deer hunters can kill, the resource will be more evenly spread over the hunters both young and old. I am a young hunter (35) who has always filled his deer tags. During the years 1992-1997 while hunting on Zarembo, I would pass up 15-25 bucks a year while hunting for a large deer. I love to deer hunt and one way to extend my season is to challenge myself with trying to shoot a large deer or simply passing them up period. This allows me to stay out in the field doing what I love for a longer period of time. I have noticed in the last three hunting seasons on Zarembo that I am seeing only 4-10 bucks a year where I used to see considerably more, and the bucks I'm seeing are small two and three points, basically young deer. Younger bucks and *less* of them indicate that the herd is being over-hunted. This over-hunting could be stopped by changing the Federal Proxy Hunter Regulations.

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: Subsistence users will benefit because when they go out to hunt they will be able to get their deer instead of coming home empty handed. Why should we allow a small group of people to kill most of the deer that belong to all the people? For some reason some people are so greedy they can't stop killing unless there is a law that will stop them. Some of these people will continue to shoot many more deer than they should even if this regulation is changed, but if this regulation is changed, enforcement will have a way of stopping them.

Proposed by: Brian Merritt, Wrangell

Proposal 5

Existing regulation: Units 1 - 5 - Deer

A Federally-qualified subsistence user (recipient) may designate another Federally-qualified subsistence user to take deer on his or her behalf unless the recipient is a member of a community operating under a community harvest system. The designated hunter must obtain a designated hunter permit and must return a completed harvest report. The designated hunter may hunt for any number of recipients but may have no more than two harvest limits in his/her possession at any one time.

Proposed regulation: Units 1 - 5 - Deer

A Federally-qualified subsistence user (recipient) may designate another Federally-qualified subsistence user to take deer on his or her behalf unless the recipient is a member of a community operating under a community harvest system. The designated hunter must obtain a designated hunter permit and must return a completed harvest report. ~~The designated hunter may hunt for any number of recipients but may have no more than two harvest limits in his/her possession at any one time.~~ **A federal designated hunter may hunt for one other person as long as that person is a resident of Alaska. If the Alaska hunter is already hunting for somebody under the State beneficiary program, then they are not eligible to be a federal designated hunter.**

Reason for changing the regulation: I would like the federal designated hunter laws to be changed so that a proxy hunter can only hunt for one person other than themselves. This “other” person can be related to them or not, but the person they are hunting for must be a resident of Alaska. The bag limit in the Wrangell area is two bucks per person each year. The deer population in this area is obviously depressed enough that the state of Alaska deems it appropriate to maintain a small bag limit. The only place that has a smaller bag limit on bucks is Mitkof Island with a bag limit of one buck. Since the Federal Proxy Hunter program was allowed, many hunters have been shooting 5, 10, and 20 times the bag limit for the Wrangell area. If the State believes the limit should be two bucks per year, how can one justify allowing hunters to greatly exceed the suggested bag limit. Some of the hunters in the Wrangell area are greatly abusing this program that was set up in the beginning to: 1. allow people to hunt for elderly people who used to hunt or 2. to bag a couple of extra deer, (couple meaning 2) for their family. The people who were instrumental in setting up this program would be shocked to know what has really happened. True, some people have used the program to provide needed meat for their family and all of the meat is utilized. Unfortunately, there are enough people who are abusing the program in such a way that it is increasingly getting harder to get deer for the average hunter who just wants to get his state bag limit of 2. Since the state has the biggest body of information regarding the deer herd in SE Alaska, I feel it is detrimental to the herd to far exceed the reasonable harvest guidelines that were suggested by the state.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: The deer population will increase, especially the number of mature bucks. The average buck that is bagged on Zarembo these days is a spindly

three point or a forked horn, whereas five years ago about half the bucks were large bodied heavy antlered four points.

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: Subsistence users who hunt themselves will benefit greatly because there will be more animals around for them to get and by limiting the “game hogs” they won’t kill as many deer, so some bucks will live longer and maybe breed more does.

Proposed by: Mark Armstrong, Wrangell

Proposal 6

Existing regulation: Units 1 - 5 - Deer

A Federally-qualified subsistence user (recipient) may designate another Federally-qualified subsistence user to take deer on his or her behalf unless the recipient is a member of a community operating under a community harvest system. The designated hunter must obtain a designated hunter permit and must return a completed harvest report. The designated hunter may hunt for any number of recipients but may have no more than two harvest limits in his/her possession at any one time.

Proposed regulation: Units 1 - 5 - Deer

A Federally-qualified subsistence user (recipient) may designate another Federally-qualified subsistence user to take deer on his or her behalf unless the recipient is a member of a community operating under a community harvest system. The designated hunter must obtain a designated hunter permit and must return a completed harvest report. The designated hunter may hunt for ~~any number of recipients but may have no more than two harvest limits in his/her possession at any one time.~~ **an unlimited number of beneficiaries who are within the second degree of kindred, but may hunt for no more than one beneficiary who is not within the second degree of kindred.** A designated hunter may not have more than two harvest limits within his/her possession at any one time.

Reason for changing the regulation: The designated hunter regulation is currently being abused as a legal means of exceeding the bag limit for deer. Some individuals actively recruit recipients, including infant children, in order to exceed the current bag limits for deer. This activity increases the potential for biological problems due to overharvest. Such abuses disregard the intent of the designated hunter regulation, promote ill will with hunters who do not qualify for federal privileges, and pose a threat to the recovery of deer populations coming back from population declines, such as those in Unit 3. Continued abuses of the designated hunter regulation are likely to forestall the liberalization of bag limits for deer in some units. This proposal seeks to reduce the abuse of the regulation by limiting the number of recipients a designated hunter may hunt for during a single season, while at the same time preserving the original intent of the program.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: Deer populations are expected to increase as a result of the anticipated reduction in harvest associated with the abuse of the federal designated hunter regulation.

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: Legitimate subsistence users will benefit as a result of the increased availability of deer.

Additional information: For the purpose of this proposal “within the second degree of kindred” means mother, father, brother, sister, son, daughter, spouse, grandparent, grandchild, brother- or sister-in-law, son- or daughter-in-law, father- or mother-in-law, step-father, step-mother, step-brother, step-sister, step-son or step-daughter.

Proposed by: Petersburg Fish and Game Advisory Committee, Petersburg

Proposal 7

Existing regulation: Unit 1(D) - Deer

Unit 1(D) - ~~No subsistence priority~~

~~No open season.~~

Proposed regulation: Unit 1(D) - Deer

Unit 1(D) - No subsistence priority

No open season.

**Residents of 1(C) and (D), and residents
of Hoonah, Kake, and Petersburg.**

**4 deer; however, antlerless deer may be
taken only from Sept. 15 - Dec. 31.**

Aug. 1 - Dec. 31.

Reason for changing the regulation: To protect rural subsistence priority.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: None.

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: Improve subsistence opportunity.

Proposed by: Kevin Allard, Haines

Proposal 8

Existing regulation: Unit 2 - Deer

C & T Use Determination - Residents of Unit 1(A) and residents of Units 2 and 3.

4 deer; however, no more than one may be an antlerless deer. Antlerless deer may be taken only during the period Oct. 15 - Dec. 31 by Federal registration permit only.

Aug. 1 - Dec. 31.

Proposed regulation: Unit 2 - Deer

C & T Use Determination - Residents of Unit 1(A) and residents of Units 2 and 3.

Unit 2 - Residents of Unit 2

~~4 5~~ deer; however, no more than one may be an antlerless deer. ~~Antlerless deer may be taken only during the period Oct. 15 - Dec. 31 by Federal registration permit only.~~

Aug. 1 - Dec. 31.

Unit 2 - Residents of Unit 1(A) and 3

~~4 2~~ deer; however, no more than one may be an antlerless deer. ~~Antlerless deer may be taken only during the period Oct. 15 - Dec. 31 by Federal registration permit only.~~

Aug. 1 - Dec. 31.

Reason for changing the regulation: This regulation change should be made to ensure local residents are getting what they need for subsistence.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: This will help impact the wildlife population by increasing the deer population so in the future there will be a deer population.

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: It will give subsistence users an opportunity to harvest enough deer for the winter and season.

Proposed by: Craig Community Association, Craig and Organized Village of Kasaan IRA

Proposal 9

Existing regulation: Unit 2 - Deer

C & T Use Determination - Residents of
Unit 1(A) and residents of Units 2 and 3.

4 deer; however, no more than one may be
an antlerless deer. Antlerless deer may be
taken only during the period Oct. 15 - Dec. 31
by Federal registration permit only.

Aug. 1 - Dec. 31.

Proposed regulation: Unit 2 - Deer

C & T Use Determination - Residents of
Unit 1(A) and residents of Units 2 and 3.

4 deer; however, no more than one may be
an antlerless deer. Antlerless deer may be
taken only during the period Oct. 15 - Dec. 31
by Federal registration permit only.

Aug. 1 - Dec. 31.

Federal public lands are closed to the hunting of deer except by Federally-qualified subsistence users during the period August 1 - August 31 and December 1 - December 31.

Reason for changing the regulation: This regulation change should be made to increase rural priority to harvest deer and the local residents an opportunity to hunt.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: This regulation change will help impact the wildlife population by decreasing the amount of deer harvested during the first part of the season.

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: This change will affect users by increasing their chance of getting what they need to harvest for the winter.

Additional information: There are many traditional areas that local hunters can't go to anymore because there are too many hunters at the beginning of the season; there is too much road traffic. HCA sees the need to implement a way to give the deer harvested on this island to the Tribes for senior dinner services or disadvantaged people unable to hunt on their own.

Proposed by: Craig Community Association, Hydaburg Community Association, and Organized Village of Kasaan IRA

Proposal 10

Existing regulation: Unit 3 - Deer

A Federally-qualified subsistence user (recipient) may designate another Federally-qualified subsistence user to take deer on his or her behalf unless the recipient is a member of a community operating under a community harvest system. The designated hunter must obtain a designated hunter permit and must return a completed harvest report. The designated hunter may hunt for any number of recipients but may have no more than two harvest limits in his/her possession at any one time.

Proposed regulation: Unit 3 - Deer

Unit 3, except for Mitkof, Woewodski, and Butterwoth Islands, and that portion of Kupreanof Island which includes Lindenburg Peninsula east of the Portage Bay/Duncan Canal Portage, a Federally-qualified subsistence user (recipient) may designate another Federally-qualified subsistence user to take deer on his or her behalf unless the recipient is a member of a community operating under a community harvest system. The designated hunter must obtain a designated hunter permit and must return a completed harvest report. The designated hunter may hunt for any number of recipients but may have no more than two harvest limits in his/her possession at any one time.

Reason for changing the regulation: The designated hunter regulation is currently being abused in this area as a legal means of exceeding the bag limit for deer. Some individuals actively recruit recipients, including infant children, in order to exceed the current bag limits for deer. This activity increases the potential for biological problems due to overharvest. The deer population is still recovering from a severe population crash associated with unusually harsh winters in the late 1960's and early 1970's. This population crash resulted in an 18-year season closure of deer hunting from 1975 to 1990. Although the deer season was reopened in 1991, the Mitkof Island, Woewodski island, and Butterwoth Islands, and that portion of Kupreanof Island which includes Lindenburg Peninsula east of the Portage Bay/Duncan Canal Portage area is still managed under one of the most restrictive deer seasons and bag limits found in Region 1. Abuses of the Federal Designated Hunter Program disregard the intent of the designated hunter regulation, and pose a threat to the recovery of deer populations in this area. Continued abuses of the designated hunter regulation are likely to forestall the recovery of deer populations and the liberalization of bag limits for deer. This proposal seeks to eliminate the abuse of the regulation by closing a limited area to the taking of deer under the Federal Designated Hunter Program. The more restrictive State Proxy System will continue to provide members of the public who are over 65 years of age, at least 70% disabled, or legally blind with the ability to secure a proxy hunter to harvest a deer on their behalf.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: Deer populations are expected to increase in this area as a result of the anticipated reduction in harvest associated with the abuse of the federal designated hunter regulation.

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: Legitimate subsistence users will benefit as a result of the increased availability of deer.

Proposed by: Andy Wright, Petersburg

Proposal 11

Existing regulation: Unit 3 - Deer

Unit 3 - remainder - 2 antlered deer.

Aug. 1 - Nov. 30.

Proposed regulation: Unit 3 - Deer

Unit 3 - Zarembo Island - 2 deer, no more than one of which may be an antlerless deer. Antlerless deer may be taken only during the period October 15 - November 30 by Federal registration permit.

Aug. 1 - Nov. 30.

Unit 3 - remainder - 2 antlered deer.

Aug. 1 - Nov. 30.

Reason for changing the regulation: There is a very large population of deer on Zarembo Island. When we get a hard winter there will be a massive winter kill - a total waste of good meat that could be used by the people of Wrangell and Petersburg.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: It will reduce the antlerless deer population slightly.

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: This will make more deer available to harvest.

Additional information: The Zarembo Island deer population is very high. A limited antlerless harvest will provide more deer to the rural residents and will not hurt the deer population and take some of the pressure off the buck population.

Proposed by: Harold Bailey, Wrangell

Proposal 12 (Deferred Proposal 2001 - 4)

Existing regulation: Unit 4 - Special Provisions.

“You may take ungulates from a boat. Boats may not be used to take bear, wolves, or wolverine, except for persons certified as disabled.”

Proposed regulation: Unit 4 - Special Provisions

~~You may take ungulates from a boat.~~ Boats may not be used to take ungulates, bear, wolves, or wolverine, except for persons certified as disabled.

Reason for changing the regulation: Federal jurisdiction largely does not extend to marine waters in Unit 4 (Section 242.3(b)(28)). Deer are not shot from boats in freshwater, as is otherwise provided, and this federal regulation is misleading to subsistence hunters. The State is citing and prosecuting hunters who shoot from a boat in marine waters, because there is a State regulation which prohibits that practice and the State asserts jurisdiction in marine waters.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: N/A

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: Subsistence hunters will be less likely to inadvertently violate State law by shooting from a boat in marine waters.

Additional information: Pending litigation in Alaska v. U.S. seeks to resolve the submerged lands jurisdiction question in southeast Alaska. The State has invoked the Supreme Court’s constitutional jurisdiction, seeking their review of the question “who owns the lands under the marine waters of the Tongass National Forest”. However, final judicial resolution of this issue is likely to take years.

Proposed by: USDA Forest Service

Proposal 13

Existing regulation: Unit 5 - Goat

1 goat by Federal registration permit only Aug. 1-Jan.31

Proposed regulation: Unit 5 - Goat

Unit 5(A1) – 1 goat by Federal registration permit only. **The season will be closed by local announcement when a quota of “x number” of goats has been taken.** Aug. 1-Jan.31

Unit 5(A2) – 1 goat by Federal registration permit only. **The season will be closed by local announcement when a quota of “x number” of goats has been taken.** Aug. 1-Jan.31

Unit 5(A3) – 1 goat by Federal registration permit only. **The season will be closed by local announcement when a quota of “x number” of goats has been taken.** Aug. 1-Jan.31

Unit 5(A4) – 1 goat by Federal registration permit only. **The season will be closed by local announcement when a quota of “x number” of goats has been taken.** Aug. 1-Jan.31

Unit 5, remainder – 1 goat by Federal registration permit only. Aug. 1-Jan.31

Description of Units

5(A1): Puget Peninsula

5(A2): Areas between the Hubbard Glacier and the West Nunatak Glacier on the North and East sides of Nunatak Fiord.

5(A3): South of the line bisecting Nunatak Fiord and West Nunatak Glacier and west of a line bisecting Yakutat Glacier including the western shoreline of Harlequin Lake and the Eastern coast of Russel Fiord.

5(A4): All areas south and east of the line bisecting Yakutat Glacier and Akwe Mountain to the Alsek River.

Reason for changing the regulation: This proposal, submitted by the US Forest Service, Yakutat Ranger District, would divide Game Management Unit 5A into four hunt areas for the purpose of managing mountain goat populations through a quota system. It was recognized through aerial surveys in 2000 and 2001 that little interaction is thought to occur among the distinct subpopulations in Unit 5A. Some herds are stable and others appear to be in decline. In order to protect declining herds and create sustainable harvest levels for all herds, hunt areas should be established.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: The impact to wildlife populations will be beneficial. Declining herds would be protected giving them time to grow to harvestable levels. Healthy herds would be assigned quota numbers allowing harvest opportunities without jeopardizing discreet populations.

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: Subsistence users will maintain the opportunity to hunt goats in Unit 5A. With an identified quota, conflicts between sport hunters and subsistence hunters will be minimized. If abundance is low, sport hunters will be restricted before reducing the subsistence harvest. By conservatively managing discreet herds, healthy populations can be maintained providing for a continuous subsistence harvest in traditional use areas.

Additional information: Existing State Regulations - Unit 5,
Residents & Nonresidents: One goat - Harvest Ticket Aug. 1 – Dec.31

Proposed by: USDA-Forest Service, Yakutat Ranger District

Proposal 14

Existing regulation: Unit 1(C) &(D) - Moose

Unit 1(C) - Berner's Bay - No subsistence priority.

Unit 1(C) - remainder - No determination.

Unit 1(D) - No determination.

Unit 1(C), that portion south of Point Hobart including all Port Houghton drainages - 1 antlered bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or 3 or more brow tines on either antler, by State registration permit only. Sept. 15 - Oct. 15.

Unit 1(C) - remainder, excluding drainages of Berners Bay - 1 antlered bull by State registration permit only. Sept. 15 - Oct. 15.

Unit 1(D) No open season.

Proposed regulation: Unit 1(C) &(D) - Moose

~~Unit 1(C) - Berner's Bay - No subsistence priority.~~

Unit 1(C) - ~~remainder~~ - No determination.

Unit 1(D) - No determination.

Unit 1(C), that portion south of Point Hobart including all Port Houghton drainages - 1 antlered bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or 3 or more brow tines on either antler, by State registration permit only. Sept. 15 - Oct. 15.

Unit 1(C) - remainder, ~~excluding drainages of Berners Bay~~ - 1 antlered bull by State registration permit only. Sept. 15 - Oct. 15.

Unit 1(D)- **1 antlered bull by State registration permit only.** ~~No open season.~~
Sept. 15 - Oct. 15.

[Proponent indicated by phone that the establishment of a harvest quota for these two areas would be acceptable.]

Public lands are closed for the hunting of moose, except by eligible rural Alaska residents.

Reason for changing the regulation: To protect rural subsistence priority.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: None.

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: Improve subsistence opportunity.

Proposed by: Kevin Allard, Haines

Proposal 15

Existing regulation: Unit 4 - Marten, Mink, & Weasel

§____.26(m)(4)(ii)(E) You may not use any motorized land vehicle for the taking of marten, mink, and weasel on Chichagof Island.

Proposed regulation:Unit 4 - Marten, Mink, & Weasel

§____.26(m)(4)(ii)(E) **On Cichagof Island, including the Northeast Chichagof Controlled Use Area**, you may ~~not~~ use any motorized land vehicle for the taking of marten, mink, and weasel ~~on Chichagof Island~~.

Reason for changing the regulation: In this rare case, the Federal regulation is more restrictive than the State regulation. Change would conform Federal and State regulations increasing the opportunity to take marten, mink, and weasel under a Federal Subsistence permit.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: Change will benefit populations of subsistence wild fowl specifically grouse and ptarmigan.

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: Subsistence users will be able to use existing road system to access the indicated resource and not be limited to boat or foot transportation.

Proposed by: Honnah Indian Association, Hoonah

Proposal 16

Existing regulation: Unit 13 - Caribou

2 bulls by Federal registration permit	Aug. 10 - Sept. 30.
only. Hunting within the Trans-Alaska Oil	Oct. 21 - Mar. 31.
Pipeline right-of-way is prohibited. The	
right-of-way is identified as the area occupied	
by the pipeline (buried or above ground) and the	
cleared area 25 feet on either side of the pipeline.	

Proposed regulation: Unit 13 - Caribou

Units 13(A) & (B) (Nelchina Caribou Herd)	Aug. 10 - Sept. 30
- 2 bulls caribou by Federal registration	Oct. 21 Dec. 1 - Mar. 31 Apr.
20.	
permit only.	

Unit 13, remainder - 2 bulls by Federal	Aug. 10 - Sept. 30.
registration permit only. Hunting within the	Oct. 21 - Mar. 31.
Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline right-of-way is	
prohibited. The right-of-way is identified as the	
area occupied by the pipeline (buried or above ground)	
and the cleared area 25 feet on either side of the pipeline.	

Reason for changing the regulation: The Federally-qualified subsistence users do not hunt during the rutting season, during the months of October and November. The meat is not edible during this hunting season. However, closing the season for two months and extending the season by 20 days will enable the subsistence users to enhance their chances to harvest a caribou during the early part of April month. During the early part of April month, there are a few caribou in Unit 13 along the road system and this would help the Federally-qualified subsistence users to harvest a caribou. The twenty-day extension will not adversely affect the population of the caribou herd. The take for Unit 13 is in the neighborhood of less than 800 caribou. The Federally-qualified subsistence users really need to have the *any caribou* reinstated into the Unit 13 caribou hunt. The Federally-qualified subsistence users are adversely impacted by the influx of hunters in Unit 13 and do not have their subsistence needs met. The number of hunters from the urban areas within Unit 13 during the fall caribou hunting season, which is when the Nelchina Herd is in the area, has an adverse impact upon the Federally-qualified subsistence users. Very few Federally-qualified subsistence users, who do not have off road vehicles, harvest a caribou on Federal public lands. Reinstating *any caribou* would help the Federally-qualified subsistence users to harvest a caribou in Unit 13 on Federal public lands. Also, it is customary and traditional for the Ahtna to harvest any caribou. It did not matter what sex the caribou was. The Ahtna harvest caribou during the winter and spring months because they had to provide for themselves. Today, the Ahtna depend upon caribou to have their subsistence needs met. They need to have *any caribou* so that they can have a good chance to feed their families caribou meat.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: Through the elimination of two months to hunt Unit 13 Nelchina Herd and adding only twenty days to the hunt will not have an adverse impact upon the caribou herd. The Federally-qualified subsistence users do not harvest most of the caribou in Unit 13; the take of the Nelchina Herd is largely taken by the Unit 13 Tier II caribou hunters who hunt under State regulations. The Tier II Nelchina caribou hunters, who hunt under this State regulation, are approximately 2,000 permittees, who are given a Tier II permit to hunt in Unit 13 and are mostly from the urban areas. They are the hunters who have an adverse impact upon the Nelchina Caribou Herd. The Federally-qualified subsistence users harvest only a small portion of the Nelchina Caribou Herd. Additionally, the Federal public lands are small in comparison to the State public lands. The Federally-qualified subsistence users will not take a lot of caribou.

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: This will enable the Federally-qualified subsistence users to enhance their chances of harvesting a caribou and to have their subsistence needs met. They will be able to hunt and take any caribou, when there aren't as many hunters in Unit 13 and when the Nelchina Herd is along or near the road system in the early part of April.

Proposed by: Copper River Native Association, Copper Center

Proposal 17

Existing regulation: Unit 13 - Moose & Caribou

Moose - Unit 13(E) - 1 antlered bull moose by Federal registration permit only; only 1 permit will be issued per household.	Aug. 1 - Sept. 20.
Moose - Unit 13 - remainder - 1 antlered bull moose by Federal registration permit only.	Aug. 1 - Sept. 20.
Caribou - 2 bulls by Federal registration permit only. Hunting within the Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline right-of-way is prohibited. The right-of-way is identified as the area occupied by the pipeline (buried or above ground) and the cleared area 25 feet on either side of the pipeline.	Aug. 10 - Sept. 30. Oct. 21 - Mar. 31.

Proposed regulation: Unit 13 - Moose & Caribou

Moose - Unit 13(A) and (B) - 1 antlered bull moose by Federal registration permit only. Federal public lands are closed to the hunting of moose except by Federally-qualified subsistence users.	Aug. 1 - Sept. 20.
Moose - Unit 13(E) - 1 antlered bull moose by Federal registration permit only; only 1 permit will be issued per household.	Aug. 1 - Sept. 20.
Moose - Unit 13 - remainder - 1 antlered bull moose by Federal registration permit only.	Aug. 1 - Sept. 20.
Caribou - Unit 13(A) and (B) - 2 bulls by Federal registration permit only. Hunting within the Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline right-of-way is prohibited. The right-of-way is identified as the area occupied by the pipeline (buried or above ground) and the cleared area 25 feet on either side of the pipeline. Federal public lands are closed to the hunting of caribou except by Federally-qualified subsistence users.	Aug. 10 - Sept. 30. Oct. 21 - Mar. 31.
Caribou - Unit 13 - remainder - 2 bulls by Federal registration permit only. Hunting within the Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline right-of-way is prohibited. The right-of-way is identified as the area occupied by the pipeline (buried or above ground) and the cleared area 25 feet on either side of the pipeline.	Aug. 10 - Sept. 30. Oct. 21 - Mar. 31.

Reason for changing the regulation: The Federally-qualified subsistence users are adversely impacted by urban hunters in Unit 13 on Federal and State lands, during the caribou and moose hunting season, and their subsistence needs are not being met. The Federally-qualified subsistence users are being impacted by the Tier II permittee hunters, who are largely from the urban areas. The Tier II caribou/moose permittees hunt on Federal and State lands. The take of caribou and moose are mostly from the State Tier II hunt. The number of permittees under the Tier II caribou permit hunt is 2,000 and the number of permittees is 1500 for the Tier II moose permit. These Tier II hunters, who are awarded Tier II caribou and Tier II moose permits are successful in harvesting a caribou and moose due to having off road terrain vehicles, which enables them to hunt off the road system. They are largely the hunters who take most of the caribou and moose in Unit 13. Also, the Federally-qualified subsistence users will be able to hunt on Federal public lands without competition for the resources. They will have a better chance to harvest a caribou and moose without the competition from the urban Tier II caribou and Tier II moose hunters, who hunt on Federal and State lands. Additionally, the Federal public lands are small in comparison to State public lands and the take of caribou on Federal public lands would not adversely affect the caribou or moose population.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: This proposal, if passed by the Federal management, will enable the population of the caribou and moose to sustain growth in a minimal way, since the Federal public lands will be closed to the non-Federally-qualified subsistence users. The Federal public lands may be small, however, everything that helps to aid the caribou and moose populations to increase will only help to provide for the Federally-qualified subsistence users, and help to increase the population of caribou and moose.

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: This will enable the Federally-qualified subsistence users to enhance their chances of harvesting a caribou and moose and to have their subsistence needs met. They will be able to hunt and take any caribou and moose on Federal public lands without competing with the non-Federally-qualified subsistence users.

Proposed by: Copper River Native Association, Copper Center

Proposal 48

Existing regulation: Unit 6(C) - Moose

Unit 6(C) - 1 cow by Federal registration permit only. (Five permits will be issued.)

Aug. 15 - Dec. 31.

Proposed regulation: Unit 6(C) - Moose

Unit 6(C) - 1 cow by Federal registration permit only. ~~(Five permits will be issued.)~~

~~Aug. 15~~ **Sept. 1** - Dec. 31.

1 bull by Federal Registration permit only.

Reason for changing the regulation: This proposal will change the Unit 6(C) bull harvest from a Statewide draw permit to a Federal draw permit for residents of 6(A), 6(B), and 6(C). The current Federal subsistence harvest for Unit 6(C) is for cows only. The cow harvest (5 cows) does not provide adequate subsistence use. The Unit 6(C) bull and cow harvest should be 100% of the maximum allowable harvest and be determined annually by winter surveys. This proposal also changes the opening date of the Unit 6(C) moose season from August 15 to September 1. There is no history of harvesting moose prior to September 1. The August 15 date is confusing because the remainder of Unit 6(C) has a harvest date of September 1. Changing the opening date of Unit 6(C) will not reduce subsistence harvest opportunities.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: This proposal will not have an impact on wildlife populations. The number of animals harvested will remain the same but the allocation will change from non-subsistence users to subsistence users.

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: This proposal will allow more opportunities for subsistence users.

Proposed by: George Covell, Cordova

Proposal 18

Existing regulation: Unit 7- Moose

Unit 7 - that portion draining into Kings Bay -
1 bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or
3 or more brow tines on either antler may be
taken by the community of Chenega Bay and
also by the community of Tatitlek. Public lands
are closed to the taking of moose except by
eligible rural residents.

Aug. 1 – Sept 20

Unit 7 - remainder

No open season.

Proposed regulation: Unit 7 - Moose

Unit 7 - that portion draining into Kings Bay –
~~1 bull with spike fork or 50-inch antlers or~~
~~3 or more brow tines on either antler may be~~
~~taken by the community of Chenega Bay and~~
~~also by the community of Tatitlek.~~ Public lands
are closed to the taking of moose ~~except by~~
~~eligible rural residents.~~

~~Aug 1 – Sept. 20~~

No open season.

Unit 7 - remainder

No open season.

Reason for changing the regulation: On June 14, 2001, the Federal Subsistence Board approved a special action request (WSA01-02) from the U.S. Forest Service to close subsistence moose hunting in the Kings Bay area of Game Management Unit 7 for the upcoming August 10 – September 20, 2001, Federal season on Federal Public lands. We are requesting that the Federal Subsistence Board extend the closure of the Kings Bay area until the moose population recovers to a level that can support harvest. The semi-isolated population of moose in Kings Bay is small and has minimal interchange with other moose populations. Results of surveys indicate that there are only three bulls in this area. This combined with the low calf survival rate, easy access for hunters, and a hunting season during the rut makes this population very vulnerable. A moose hunt in Kings Bay, which targets this small group of animals, would not be consistent with the conservation of a healthy moose population.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: The proposed extension of the current closure will have a beneficial effect on the moose population. Closing harvest will assist recovery of this subgroup.

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: The proposed closure will prevent rural residents from Tatitlek and Chenega from harvesting one bull per community. However, harvest data indicate that no moose were harvested from this area since subsistence regulations established this hunt in 1997(ADF&G 2000). Therefore, the affect is expected to be minimal.

Additional information: Literature Cited: ADF&G. 2000. Harvest ticket database. Electronic database, updated July 2000.

Proposed by: USDA - Forest Service

Proposal 19

Existing regulation: Units 11 and 12 - Moose

No regulation in place for this specific camp harvest.

Proposed regulation: Units 11 and 12 - Moose

§ __.26(m)(11)(i)(C) and § __.26(m)(12)(i)(D) Batzulnetas culture camp moose - Two hunters designated by Mt. Sanford Tribal Consortium from either Chistochina or Mentasta Village. One moose (any sex) without calf may be taken in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park in either Unit 11 or Unit 12 (not both). June 20-June 30. Permit will be issued from Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Headquarters.

Reason for changing the regulation: This regulation will eliminate the annual request for a Special Action for a ceremonial moose from Mt. Sanford Tribal Consortium. This will streamline the process for the subsistence user and will eliminate an extra level of review from OSM. The NPS will continue to issue the permit.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: This will have no effect on wildlife populations providing the animal taken does not have a calf.

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: This will not impact the subsistence moose season.

Additional information: This request has been granted for at least the last 4 years and there is no foreseen reason not to grant this request in the future. Currently, Mt. Sanford Tribal Consortium must request a special action and once that is approved, the National Park Service must write the permit. This is more cumbersome than needed and a burden to the subsistence user.

Proposed by: Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

Proposal 20

Existing regulation: Unit 7 - Grouse

Grouse (Spruce and Ruffed) -
15 per day, 30 in possession

Aug. 10 - Mar. 31.

Proposed regulation: Unit 7 - Grouse

Grouse (Spruce and Ruffed) -
~~15~~ 10 per day, ~~30~~ 20 in possession

Aug. 10 - Mar. 31.

Ruffed Grouse - **No Federal Subsistence Priority**

No open season.

Reason for changing the regulation: Ruffed grouse are not indigenous to unit 7. If any still exist in Unit 7, they are survivors from a recent transplant. Spruce grouse numbers in Unit 7 appear down. A bag and possession limit of 10 and 20 provides adequate subsistence harvest opportunity and better conservation of resource.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: This change will allow for a more conservative management approach for Unit 7 spruce grouse and better provide for the long term health and yield of the this resource. Transplanted ruffed grouse should not be hunted in Unit 7.

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: This change will allow for ample harvest opportunity for all spruce grouse subsistence users in Unit 7 and help ensure that future subsistence users will also have spruce grouse to harvest.

Proposed by: Bill Stockwell, Cooper Landing

Proposal 21

Existing regulation: Units 9(D) & 10 (Unimak Island) - Caribou

Unit 9(D) - 1 caribou by Federal registration permit.	Aug. 1 - Sept. 25. Nov. 15 - Mar. 31.
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Unit 10, Unimak Island only - 2 caribou by Federal registration permit.	Aug. 1 - Sept. 15 Nov. 15 - Mar. 31.
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Proposed regulation: Units 9(D) & 10 (Unimak Island) - Caribou

Unit 9(D) - 1 caribou by Federal registration permit.	Aug. 1 - Sept. 25 30 . Nov. 15 - Mar. 31.
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Unit 10, Unimak Island only - 2 caribou by Federal registration permit.	Aug. 1 - Sept. 15 30 . Nov. 15 - Mar. 31.
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Reason for changing the regulation: This change would align the fall ending dates for both Unit 9(D) and Unit 10, Unimak Island only, with current State of Alaska caribou hunting regulations for the same units. This would provide less confusion for local caribou hunters. In addition, this change would add an additional five hunting days in the fall for both units which would provide additional hunting opportunities for local subsistence hunters.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: This change will have a minimal impact on caribou populations in these two units. The Southern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd has increased in size over the last several years and is slowly getting close to the management goal of 4,000-5,000 animals.

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: This change will provide an additional five hunting days during the fall for qualified subsistence users in both Unit 9(D) and Unit 10.

Proposed by: Kodiak /Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Proposal 22

Existing regulation: Unit 8 - Deer

Unit 8 - that portion of Kodiak Island north of a line from the head of Settlers Cove to Crescent Lake (57° 52' N. lat., 152° 58' W. long.), and east of a line from the outlet of Crescent Lake to Mount Ellison Peak and from Mount Ellison Peak to Pokati Point at Whale Passage, and that portion of Kodiak Island east of a line from the mouth of Saltery Creek to the mouth at Elbow Creek, and adjacent small islands in Chiniak Bay - 1 deer; however, antlerless deer may be taken only from Oct. 25 - Oct. 31.

Aug.1 - Oct.31

Unit 8 - that portion of Kodiak Island and adjacent islands south and west of a line from the head of Terror Bay to the head of the south-western most arm of Ugak Bay - 5 deer; however, antlerless deer may be taken only from Oct. 1 - Jan. 31.

Aug.1 - Jan.31

Reminder of Unit 8 - 5 deer; however, antlerless deer may be taken only from Oct.1- Jan.31; no more than 1 antlerless deer may be taken from Oct.1-Nov 30.

Aug.1 - Jan.31

Proposed regulation:Unit 8 - Deer

~~Unit 8 - that portion of Kodiak Island north of a line from the head of Settlers Cove to Crescent Lake (57° 52' N. lat., 152° 58' W. long.), and east of a line from the outlet of Crescent Lake to Mount Ellison Peak and from Mount Ellison Peak to Pokati Point at Whale Passage, and that portion of Kodiak Island east of a line from the mouth of Saltery Creek to the mouth at Elbow Creek, and adjacent small islands in Chiniak Bay - 1 deer; however, antlerless deer may be taken only from Oct. 25 - Oct. 31.~~

~~Aug.1 - Oct.31~~

~~Unit 8 - that portion of Kodiak Island and adjacent islands south and west of a line from the head of Terror Bay to the head of the south-western most arm of Ugak Bay - 5~~

~~Aug.1 - Jan.31~~

all lands of the Kodiak Archipelago which are within the boundary of the Kodiak National Wildlife including lands on Kodiak, Uganik, Ban, and Afognak Islands - 3 deer; however, antlerless deer may be taken only from Oct. Nov. 1- Jan. 31.

~~Reminder of Unit 8—5 deer; however, antlerless deer may be taken only from Oct.1—Jan.31; no more than 1 antlerless deer may be taken from Oct.1—Nov.30.~~

~~Aug.1—Jan.31~~

Reason for changing the regulation: Federal Subsistence Regulations, when first written in 1990/91, were adopted from State fish and game regulations. Since that time numerous changes have been made to the State and Federal regulations. State and Federal regulations have become confusing and conflicting to subsistence and sport deer hunters in Game Management Unit 8. The 2001-2002 State regulations simplified their hunt area locations to road system and non-road system areas. The State also changed to a three-deer bag limit and a December 1-31 antlerless deer season and bag. This proposed regulation would simplify Federal Subsistence Regulation area description, and deer bag and season, similar to the State changes.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: Deer populations decreased to an estimated 40,000 animals after the severe winters of 1997/98 and 1998/99. In contrast, the winters of 1999/00 and 2000/01 have been mild and very mild respectively, which has allowed for some recovery of the deer population. The amount of recovery and how soon the population would again reach management objective levels would also be dependent on future winter weather severity. A reduced harvest limit of 3 for all hunters and doe restrictions implemented by the Board of Game for the State general hunt, is expected to allow recovery sooner. With fewer deer hunters afield, brown bear DLP kills due to deer hunters should also decrease. Other wildlife populations should not be effected by this regulation change.

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: Subsistence deer hunters who have customarily harvested four or more deer on federal lands will only be able to harvest three deer. Subsistence deer hunters who have harvested antlerless deer in October on Refuge lands will not be able to hunt for antlerless deer during that month. Given continued mild winters, which would minimally impact deer survival, this regulation change should lead to an increased deer population available for harvest by subsistence users. Harvest in 1998/99, was down slightly from previous years (7,821 versus the 5 years average of 8,310). Hunter success was 83% and successful hunters averaged 1.7 deer per hunter. Many of the hunters were off island Alaska residents and non-residents (63%), while 37 % were from Kodiak Island (ADF&G 1999). In 1999/00 harvest results indicated a harvest of 3,665. Hunter success was 57% and successful hunters averaged 1.2 deer per hunter. Again, most hunters were off island Alaska residents and non-residents (58%), and 42% were from Kodiak Island (ADF&G 2000). Preliminary harvest data for the 2000/01 season indicates that about 2,500 deer were harvested. Overall, the average deer per hunter has been less than 3. The lowered supply of deer accounted for the reduction in hunter harvest during the past two years.

Additional information: Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Wildlife Conservation, September 2000. Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration, 1 July 1999 - 30 June 2000.

Proposed by: Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge

Proposal 47 (Deferred Proposal 2001 - 15 (C & T))

Existing regulation: Unit 8 - Goat

No Federal subsistence priority.

No Federal open season.

Proposed regulation: Unit 8 - Goat

Unit 8 - Residents of Kodiak Island.

Reason for changing the regulation: No current subsistence hunt on Kodiak Island.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: Minimal.

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: Positive. Lower impact on our low deer population.

Communities which have used this resource: All Kodiak Island communities.

Where the resource has been harvested: East and West Terror Lake, Crown Mountain, Kiliuda Bay. Include all areas in the refuge.

When the resource has been harvested: September 1 - October 31.

Additional information:

Proposed by: Ivan D. Lukin, Port Lions

Proposal 47 (Deferred Proposal 2001 - 15 (Subpart D))

Existing regulation: Unit 8 - Goat

No Federal subsistence priority.

No Federal open season.

Proposed regulation: Unit 8 - Goat

Unit 8 - 1 goat by registration permit only.

[no specific season proposed]

Only one permit will be issued per household.

Reason for changing the regulation: No current subsistence hunt on Kodiak Island.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: Minimal.

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: Positive. Lower impact on our low deer population.

Communities which have used this resource: All Kodiak Island communities.

Where the resource has been harvested: East and West Terror Lake, Crown Mountain, Kiliuda Bay. Include all areas in the refuge.

When the resource has been harvested: September 1 - October 31.

Additional information:

Proposed by: Ivan D. Lukin, Port Lions

Proposal 23

Existing regulation: Unit 9(D) - Moose
Unit 9(D)

No open season.

Proposed regulation: Unit 9(D) - Moose
Unit 9(D) - 1 bull by Federal registration
permit.

~~No open season.~~
Dec. 15 – Jan. 20.

Reason for changing the regulation: This change would establish a Federal subsistence moose harvest season for Unit 9(D). The current State season is one bull by drawing permit, December 15 – January 20.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: Establishment of a moose season would have no impact on other wildlife populations in Unit 9(D).

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: This change would establish a Federal subsistence moose harvest season for local moose hunters for Unit 9(D). The proposed Federal season would align with the current State season. Currently, rural residents of Cold Bay, False Pass, King Cove, Nelson Lagoon, and Sand Point have been determined to have customary and traditional use of moose in Unit 9(D).

Proposed by: Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Advisory Council

Proposal 24

Existing regulation: Units 9(B) & 17 - Brown Bear

§ __.26(m)(17), (18), and (19) You may hunt brown bear by State registration permit in lieu of a resident tag in the Western Alaska Brown Bear Management Area which consists of Unit 17(A), that portion of 17(B) draining into Nuyakuk Lake and Tikchik Lake, Unit 18, and that portion of Unit 19(A) and (B) downstream of and including the Aniak River drainage, if you have obtained a State registration permit prior to hunting.

Proposed regulation: Units 9(B) & 17 - Brown Bear

§ __.26(m)(**9**), (17), (18), and (19) You may hunt brown bear by State registration permit in lieu of a resident tag in the Western Alaska Brown Bear Management Area which consists of Units **9(B) except that portion within the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve**, ~~17(A), that portion of 17(B) draining into Nuyakuk Lake and Tikchik Lake, Unit 18,~~ and that portion of Unit 19(A) and (B) downstream of and including the Aniak River drainage, if you have obtained a State registration permit prior to hunting.

Reason for changing the regulation: This change should be made to minimize the confusion that exists between the Federal and State descriptions of the Western Alaska Brown Bear Management Area. The Federal description omits Unit 9(B) and only incorporates part of Unit 17 while the State description includes Unit 9(B) and all of Unit 17.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: This change would probably have very little impact on wildlife populations in the Western Alaska Brown Bear Management Area.

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: This change would make the description of the Western Alaska Brown Bear Management Area similar for both the Federal Subsistence Management Regulations and Alaska Hunting Regulations. At the same time, this change would allow the continuation of the Federal Registration Permit hunt and its provisions for the portion of Unit 9(B) within the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. This hunt was established by the Federal Subsistence Board at the recommendation of the Lake Clark National Park Subsistence Resource Commission and the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council and it contains provisions similar to the western Alaska Brown Bear Management Area. This would help to reduce the confusion that exists concerning the description of the management area for qualified brown bear hunters for Unit 9(B), remainder and Unit 17.

Proposed by: Togiak National Wildlife Refuge

Proposal 25

Existing regulation: Unit 17(A) - Caribou

Units 17(A) and (C) - Remainder - selected drainages, a harvest limit of up to 5 caribou will be determined at the time the season is announced.

Season to occur between Aug. 1 - Mar. 31, harvest limit, and hunt area to be announced by the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge Manager.

Proposed regulation: Unit 17(A) - Caribou

Unit 17(A) - all drainages west of Right Hand Point - 5 caribou; however, no more than 2 bulls may be taken from Oct. 1 - Nov. 30.

Aug. 1 - Mar. 31. Season length and harvest limit for the drainages between the Togiak River and Right Hand Point may be reduced by announcement of the Togiak NWR Manager.

Units 17(A) and (C) - Remainder - selected drainages, a harvest limit of up to 5 caribou will be determined at the time the season is announced.

Season to occur between Aug. 1 - Mar. 31, harvest limit, and hunt area to be announced by the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge Manager.

Reason for changing the regulation: This change should be made to align with existing State regulations.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: This proposal will have little, if any, impact on wildlife populations in Unit 17(A) drainages west of Right Hand Point.

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: This change would make caribou hunting regulations for Federal public lands in Unit 17(A) less confusing for qualified caribou hunters.

Proposed by: Togiak National Wildlife Refuge

Proposal 26

Existing regulation: Unit 17(B) and (C) - Moose

Unit 17(B) - that portion that includes all the Mulchatna River drainage upstream from and including the Chilchitna River drainage - 1 bull by State registration permit only during the period Aug. 20 - Aug. 31. During the period Sept. 1 - Sept. 15 only a spike/fork bull or a bull with 50-inch antlers or with 3 or more brow tines on one side may be taken with a State harvest ticket. Aug. 20 - Sept. 15.

Unit 17(C) - that portion that includes the Iowithla drainage and Sunshine Valley and all lands west of Wood River and south of Aleknagik Lake - 1 bull by State registration permit only during the period Aug. 20 - Aug. 31. During the period Sept. 1 - Sept. 15 only a spike/fork bull or a bull with 50-inch antlers or with 3 or more brow tines on one side may be taken with a State harvest ticket. Aug. 20 - Sept. 15.

Unit 17(B) - remainder and 17(C) - remainder - 1 bull by State registration permit only during the periods Aug. 20 - Aug. 31 and Dec. 1 - Dec. 31. During the period Sept. 1 - Sept. 15 only a spike/fork bull or a bull with 50-inch antlers or with 3 or more brow tines on one side may be taken with a State harvest ticket. Aug. 20 - Sept. 15.
Dec. 1 - Dec. 31.

Proposed regulation: Unit 17(B) and (C) - Moose

Unit 17(B) - that portion that includes all the Mulchatna River drainage upstream from and including the Chilchitna River drainage - 1 bull by State registration permit only during the period Aug. 20 - ~~Aug. 31~~ **Sept. 15**. During the period Sept. 1 - Sept. 15 only a spike/fork bull or a bull with 50-inch antlers or with 3 or more brow tines on one side may be taken with a State harvest ticket. Aug. 20 - Sept. 15.

Unit 17(C) - that portion that includes the Iowithla drainage and Sunshine Valley and all lands west of Wood River and south of Aleknagik Lake - 1 bull by State registration permit only during the period Aug. 20 - ~~Aug. 31~~ **Sept. 15**. During the period Sept. 1 - Sept. 15 only a spike/fork bull or a bull with 50-inch antlers or with 3 or more brow tines on one side may be taken with a State harvest ticket. Aug. 20 - Sept. 15.

Unit 17(B) - remainder and 17(C) - remainder - 1 bull Aug. 20 - Sept. 15.
by State registration permit only during the periods Dec. 1 - Dec. 31.
Aug. 20 - ~~Aug. 31~~ **Sept. 15** and Dec. 1 - Dec. 31. During
the period Sept. 1 - Sept. 15 only a spike/fork bull or a
bull with 50-inch antlers or with 3 or more brow tines
on one side may be taken with a State harvest ticket.

Reason for changing the regulation: This change should be made to eliminate the confusion that exists regarding the requirement for a State registration permit for rural residents who are qualified to hunt moose in Units 17(B) and (C). Federal subsistence regulations require a State registration permit for the period August 20 – 31 while State hunting regulations require a State registration permit for the period August 20 – September 15.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: This proposal would probably have no impact on wildlife populations in Units 17(B) and 17(C).

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: This change would make moose hunting regulations for Federal public lands in Units 17(B) and 17(C) less confusing for qualified moose hunters.

Proposed by: Togiak National Wildlife Refuge

Proposal 27

Existing regulation: Unit 17 - Beaver

40 beaver per season.

Nov. 10 - Mar. 31.

Proposed regulation: Unit 17 - Beaver

40 beaver per season.

Nov. 10 - Mar. 31.

**2 beaver per day; only firearms may
be used.**

Apr. 15 – May 31

**§ __.26(m)(17)(iii)(C) If you have a trapping license, you may use a firearm to
take beaver in Unit 17 from April 15 – May 31.**

Reason for changing the regulation: This change should be made to eliminate the confusion that exists for rural residents of Units 9 (A), 9(B), 9(C), 9(E), and 17 between the Federal and State trapping regulations for Unit 17.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: This change would have a very minimal impact on wildlife populations in Unit 17.

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: This change would lengthen the Federal subsistence trapping season on Federal public lands in Unit 17, provide an alternative method of harvest, and align Federal and State trapping regulations for trapping in Unit 17.

Proposed by: Togiak National Wildlife Refuge

Proposal 28

Existing regulation: Unit 18 - Caribou

Unit 18 - Caribou (Kilbuck caribou herd only) - Residents of Tuluksak, Akiak, Akiachak, Kwethluk, Bethel, Oscarville, Napaskiak, Napakiak, Kasigluk, Atmanthluak, Nunapitchuk, Tuntutuliak, Eek, Quinhagak, Goodnews Bay, Platinum, Togiak, and Twin Hills.

Unit 18, north of the Yukon River - Caribou (except Kilbuck caribou herd) - Residents of Alakanuk, Andreafsky, Chevak, Emmonak, Hooper Bay, Kotlik, Kwethluk, Marshall, Mountain Village, Pilot Station, Pitka's Point, Russian Mission, St. Marys, St. Michael, Scammon Bay, Nunam Iqua, and Stebbins.

Unit 18 remainder - Caribou (except Kilbuck caribou herd) - Residents of Kwethluk.

Unit 18 - that portion north of the Yukon River - 5 caribou per day

Aug. 1 and Mar. 31.

Unit 18 - that portion south of the Yukon River—A harvest limit of up to 5 caribou will be determined at the time the season is announced and will be based on the management objectives in the "Qavilnguut (Kilbuck) Caribou Herd Cooperative Management Plan." The season will be closed when the total harvest reaches guidelines as described in the approved "Qavilnguut (Kilbuck) Caribou Herd Cooperative Management Plan."

Season to occur between Aug. 25 and Mar. 31 to be announced by the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge Manager.

Proposed regulation: Unit 18 - Caribou

~~Unit 18—Caribou (Kilbuck caribou herd only) - Residents of Tuluksak, Akiak, Akiachak, Kwethluk, Bethel, Oscarville, Napaskiak, Napakiak, Kasigluk, Atmanthluak, Nunapitchuk, Tuntutuliak, Eek, Quinhagak, Goodnews Bay, Platinum, Togiak, and Twin Hills.~~

Unit 18, north of the Yukon River - Caribou ~~(except Kilbuck caribou herd)~~ - Residents of Alakanuk, Andreafsky, Chevak, Emmonak, Hooper Bay, Kotlik, Kwethluk, Marshall, Mountain Village, Pilot Station, Pitka's Point, Russian Mission, St. Marys, St. Michael, Scammon Bay, Nunam Iqua, and Stebbins.

Unit 18 ~~remainder south of the Yukon River~~ - Caribou ~~(except Kilbuck caribou herd)~~ - Residents of Kwethluk — **Residents of Unit 18.**

Unit 18—that portion north of the Yukon River - 5 caribou per day

Aug. 1 and Mar. 31.

Unit 18 - that portion south of the Yukon River - ~~A harvest limit of up to 5 caribou per season will be determined at the time the season is announced and will be based on the management objectives in the "Qavilnguut (Kilbuck) Caribou Herd Cooperative Management Plan."~~ The season will be closed when the total harvest reaches guidelines as described in the approved "Qavilnguut (Kilbuck) Caribou Herd Cooperative Management Plan."

Aug. 1 and Mar. 31.
~~Season to occur between Aug. 25 and Mar. 31 to be announced by the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge Manager.~~

Reason for changing the regulation: The Federal Subsistence Management Regulations allow for a harvest of up to 5 caribou from the Qavilnguut (Kilbuck) Caribou Herd with a season to be announced by the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge Manager. Currently there is no Federal Subsistence Regulation that acknowledges the existence of and current harvest of Mulchatna caribou by residents of Unit 18, South of the Yukon River. The Alaska Hunting Regulations do have an established caribou hunt for Unit 18 residents, south of the Yukon River. The current State regulation, as written, does not specify which herd (which as read allows for the harvest of caribou from either Mulchatna or Qavilnguut (Kilbuck) Caribou herds). The State regulation, as written, does not have specific dates for the season. The regulation states: Season may be announced. With the assimilation of these two herds in Unit 18, South of the Yukon River, management would be much improved and the seasons and harvest limits could be better established for the benefit of both the resident hunters and management agencies involved. This proposal, if approved, would allow residents of Unit 18, South of the Yukon River, an opportunity to harvest caribou from either the Mulchatna or Qavilnguut (Kilbuck) Caribou herd, during an established subsistence season with specific dates and a harvest limit of 5 caribou for the season.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: Based on aerial survey reports from the ADF&G Wildlife Division and the USFWS, the assimilated Mulchatna/Qavilnguut (Kilbuck) Caribou herd should have adequate numbers in the proposed area to allow a harvest limit and Federal subsistence season to be established.

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: The Federal subsistence regulation would acknowledge the current harvest of caribou from both the Mulchatna Caribou Herd and the Qavilnguut (Kilbuck) Caribou Herd and allow the residents Unit 18, South of the Yukon River, an opportunity to have an established Federal subsistence season with specific dates. A harvest limit of 5 caribou and an August 1 through March 31 subsistence season would allow for more opportunistic harvest while other subsistence activities are being participated in by the residents of Unit 18. An earlier start date (August 1) would provide an opportunity for subsistence hunters to harvest bull caribou prior to the rut.

Proposed by: Native Village of Kwinhagak

Proposal 29

Existing regulation: Unit 18 - Moose

Unit 18 - remainder - 1 antlered bull.
A 10-day hunt to occur between Dec. 1
and Feb. 28 (1 bull, evidence of sex required)
will be opened by announcement.

Sept. 1 - Sept. 30.
Winter season to
be announced.

Public lands in Unit 18 are closed to the hunting of moose, except by Federally-qualified rural Alaska residents during seasons identified.

Proposed regulation: Unit 18 - Moose

Unit 18 - remainder - 1 antlered bull.
A 10-day hunt to occur between Dec. 1
and Feb. 28 (1 bull, evidence of sex required)
will be opened by announcement.

~~Sept. 1~~ **Aug. 20** - Sept. 30 **20**.
Winter season to
be announced.

Public lands in Unit 18 are closed to the hunting of moose, except by Federally-qualified rural Alaska residents during seasons identified.

Reason for changing the regulation: In lower Yukon villages, economic decline is affecting subsistence users and is expected not to change in at least the next 4-5 years or more. The entire region was declared disaster area for last two years. The disaster relief funds announced by the State and Federal governments are not benefitting local subsistence users because the money goes through a regional non-profit organization. Opening early moose hunting season will definitely benefit the subsistence users because in villages only a handful of subsistence users work in summer limited jobs. With limited funds obtained from work, local individuals usually pool their limited funds and go out hunting hoping to bring something home for their family. Upon returning from successful hunting trip, hunters share their harvest with friends and relatives. At times, a hunter or hunters are left barely enough meat for their family by the time the meat is distributed.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: There will not be impact on moose populations in Unit 18 because wildlife managers reports healthy populations within proposed area. When moose hunting is open, hunters are allowed to harvest 1 bull moose in regulatory year. The expectations of harvest remains same when this regulatory change becomes reality.

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: This regulatory change will not affect subsistence users. Subsistence activities are based on individual or family needs. Healthy populations of moose in proposed area will support resource growth.

Proposed by: Pete Peterson, Mountain Village

Proposal 30

Existing regulation: Units 21 & 24 - Wildlife

Establish a funerary and mortuary potlatch federal regulation similar to State of Alaska regulations for Units 21, & 24

Proposed regulation: Units 21 & 24 - Wildlife

____.26(m)(21)(iii)(E) and _____.26(m)(24)(iii)(C) You may take wildlife outside the seasons or harvest limits provided in this part for food in traditional religious ceremonies which are part of a funerary or mortuary cycle, including memorial potlatches, if:

- (1) No permit or harvest ticket is required for taking under this section, however, the harvester must be an Alaska rural resident;
- (2) A person who takes wildlife under this regulation shall, as soon as possible and not more than 20 days after the ceremony, submit or ensure submission of a written report to the nearest federal office specifying the person's name and address, the number and sex of the wildlife harvested, the dates and location of the harvesting, and the identity of the decedent or decedents for whom the ceremony was or will be held;
- (3) the harvested meat was used in a customary and traditional Alaska Native religious ceremony.

Reason for changing the regulation: The recognition and protection of traditional religious ceremonies that have taken place for generations is needed in federal regulations. Many of our communities are enclaves within National Wildlife Refuges or National Parks and work closely with federal staff. We want the support of these federal managers for our traditional religious ceremonies. Also, in other areas federal staff is more accessible to our communities than Alaska Department of Fish and Game staff. We are requesting this regulation since there is not a statewide regulation on this issue under federal regulations. During the times when the rural and Native communities come together to recognize the passing of one its members, Native foods play an integral part in the celebration. Regulations addressing this need, need to be simple, direct, and respectful. We encourage modifications to our proposal that will provide the recognition and protection with the least regulatory - administrative burden on communities honoring a depended member.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: N/A

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: It will allow rural & Native Alaskans to continue a customary and traditional activity with the recognition and protection of federal regulations. There should be no change in harvest since this type of harvest has gone on for generations. This proposed regulation may simplify harvest reporting because of increased availability of staff to report to.

Proposed by: Western Interior Regional Advisory Council

Proposal 31

Existing regulation: Unit 21(E) - Moose

Unit 21(E) - Moose - Residents of Unit 21(E) and residents of Russian Mission.

Proposed regulation: Unit 21(E) - Moose

Unit 21(E) - Moose - Residents of Unit 21(E) and residents of **Nunam Iqua, Alakanuk, Kotlik, Mountain Village, Toklik, Pitka's Point, Saint Mary's (including Andreafski Town Site), Pilot Station, Marshall, and Russian Mission.**

Reason for changing the regulation: Rural residents of Nunam Iqua, Alakanuk, Hamilton, Chuloonawick, Bill Moore Slough, Kotlik, Mountain Village, Ohogamiut, Toklik, and Russian Mission, Lower Kalskag, and Upper Kalskag have hunted in Unit 21(E) during State moose hunting seasons for over 40 years.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: There will not be impact on moose populations in Unit 21(E) because there is very healthy moose populations in Unit 21(E). When moose hunting is open, hunters are allowed to harvest a moose in regulatory year. The expectations of harvest remains same when this regulatory change becomes reality.

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: This regulatory change will not affect subsistence users in Unit 21(E). Healthy populations of moose in 21(E) will support resource growth as it has for over 40 years.

Communities which have used this resource: The following communities have used proposed area during State moose hunting season. Chevak, Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay, Nunam Iqua, Alakanuk, Emmonak, Kotlik, Hamilton, Chuloonawick, Bill Moore Slough, Mountain Village, Ohogamiut, Toklik, Pitka's Point, Andreafski Town Site, Saint Mary's, Pilot Station, Marshall and Russian Mission, and Bethel.

Where the resource has been harvested: Moose have been harvested in the banks of 12-Mile Slough and in the meadows along 12-Mile Slough, Piarniut Slough, and Innoko River drainage.

When the resource has been harvested: Moose is harvested in 21(E) by residents of 21(E) and rural residents of Russian Mission from August 20 - September 25 and in winter season from February 1 - 10.

Additional information: Moose meat is processed in the village by canning, drying, and freezing. Moose meat is distributed to those most in need of food such as widows, orphans, elders, relatives and friends. The knowledge of hunting, sharing, and processing of harvested resources are passed down by local elderly hunters and hunters. Every hunter sets a good example of sharing by giving freely to those in need in their respective communities. Native hunters share with non-Native individuals living in their communities irregardless of the hardships they face.

Proposed by: Pete Peterson, Mountain Village

Proposal 32 (Rejected Proposal 2001-30)

Existing regulation: Unit 24 - Moose

(C) You may not use aircraft for hunting moose, including transportation of any moose hunter or moose part in the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area, which consists of those portions of Units 21 and 24 bounded by a line from the north bank of the Yukon River at Koyukuk, then northerly to the confluences of the Honhosa and Kateel Rivers, then northeasterly to the confluences of Billy Hawk Creek and the Huslia River (65° 57' N. lat., 156° 41' W. long.), then easterly to the south end of Solsmunket Lake, then east to Hughes, then south to Little Indian River, then southwesterly to the crest of Hochandochtla Mountain, then southwest to the mouth of Cottonwood Creek, then southwest to Bishop Rock, then westerly along the north bank of the Yukon River (including Koyukuk Island) to the point of beginning; however, this does not apply to transportation of a moose hunter or moose part by aircraft between publicly owned airports in the controlled use area or between a publicly owned airport within the area and points outside the area; all hunters on the Koyukuk River passing the ADF&G operated check station at Ella's Cabin (15 miles upstream from the Yukon on the Koyukuk River) are required to stop and report to ADF&G personnel at the check station;

Proposed regulation: Unit 24 - Moose

Establish a Huslia/Dakli River Drainage Controlled Use Area in Unit 24.

You may not use aircraft for hunting moose, including transportation of any moose hunter or moose part in the Huslia/Dakli River Drainage Controlled Use Area, which consists of those portions of Unit 24 [need description of boundaries]; however, this does not apply to transportation of a moose hunter or moose part by aircraft between publicly owned airports in the controlled use area or between a publicly owned airport within the area and points outside the area;

Reason for changing the regulation: Resubmit Proposal 01-30. Improve law enforcement; treat hunters fairly. The FSB establishes the Huslia/Dakli River Drainage Controlled Use Area, which is consistent with the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area and regulations are also the same. Hunters will kill off country where people from Huslia hunt for moose and bear.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: Lower the taking of male moose and stop the illegal guiding. Conserve wildlife populations by protecting them from over harvest by non-local hunters.

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: This will give the moose a chance to repopulate. Make it easier for them to go out and hunt where hunters are being dropped off by airplane.

Additional information: Illegal spotting with an airplane (documented); pilot illegally guiding (documented); only 6 moose brought into village & there were more antlers than meat; no law

enforcement until Tribe contacted Senator Georgiana Lincoln; everything that I state in my testimony last year came true.

Proposed by: Jack Wholecheese, Huslia

Proposal 33

Existing regulation: Unit 22 - Brown Bear

Unit 22(A) - 1 bear by State registration permit by residents of Unit 22(A) only.	Sept. 1-May 31
Unit 22(B) - 1 bear by State registration permit by residents of Unit 22(b) only.	Sept. 1-May 31
Unit 22(C)	No open season
Unit 22(E) - 1 bear by State registration permit only.	Aug. 1 - May 31
Unit 22 remainder - 1 bear by State registration permit only.	Sept. 1- May 31

Proposed regulation:Unit 22 - Brown Bear

Unit 22(A) - 1 bear by State registration permit by residents of Unit 22(A) only.	Sept. 1 May 31
Unit 22(B) - 1 bear by State registration permit by residents of Unit 22(b) only.	Sept. 1 May 31
Unit 22(C)	No open season
Unit 22(E) - 1 bear by State registration permit only.	Aug. 1 - May 31
Unit 22 remainder - 1 bear by State registration permit only.	Sept. 1 May 31
Unit 22 - 1 bear by State registration permit only.	Aug. 1 - May 31

Reason for changing the regulation: This Federal Proposal request parallels one (State Proposal #5) submitted to the Alaska Board of Game, to be considered in November 2001. Eliminating the subunit distinctions would simplify regulations for the Federal subsistence users. Opening a harvest on the minuscule portion of Federal public lands in Unit 22(C) is likely insignificant in all aspects. Opening the harvest on August 1 throughout the unit, would provide regional consistency and increase harvest opportunities.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: The regional brown bear population is considered to be stable or slightly increasing, so adding one month of additional harvest will not likely pose any conservation concerns.

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: Increase Federal subsistence harvest opportunities.

Proposed by: Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory Council

Proposal 34

Existing regulation: Unit 22 - Moose

Unit 22 (B) – 1 bull	Aug. 1 – Dec. 1
Unit 22 (D) – That portion within the Kuzitrin River drainage - 1 antlered bull	Aug. 1 – Jan. 31
Unit 22 (D) Remainder - 1 moose; however, antlerless moose may only be taken from Dec. 1-31; no person may take a cow accompanied by a calf	Aug. 1 – Jan. 31
Unit 22 (E) - 1 moose; no person may take a cow accompanied by a calf	Aug. 1 – Mar. 31

Proposed regulation: Unit 22 - Moose

Unit 22 (B) – West of the Darby Mountains – 1 bull by State Registration Permit. The combined State/Federal harvest may not exceed 42 moose. Federal public lands are closed to the taking of moose except by Federally-qualified subsistence users.	Aug. 10 - Jan. 31 Sept. 23
Unit 22 (B) – West of the Darby Mountains - 1 bull by either Federal or State Registration Permit. The total combined State/Federal harvest for both the Aug/Sept and January seasons may not exceed 48 moose. Federal public lands are closed to the taking of moose except by Federally-qualified subsistence users.	Jan. 1- Jan. 31
Unit 22 (B) –Remainder – 1 bull	Aug. 1 – Jan.31.
Unit 22 (D) – That portion within the Kougarok, Kuzitrin and Pilgrim River drainages - 1 moose by Federal registration permit. The combined State/Federal harvest may not exceed 33 moose. Federal public lands are closed to the taking of moose except by Federally-qualified subsistence users.	Aug. Sept. 1 - Sept. 30 Jan.31
Unit 22 (D) – That portion west of the Tisuk River drainage and Canyon Creek - 1 bull by Federal registration permit - The combined State/Federal Sept. harvest may not exceed	Aug. Sept. 1 - Sept. 30 Jan.31

(# to be determined by ADF&G) moose.

Unit 22 (D) – **That portion west of the Tisuk River drainage and Canyon Creek** - 1 moose
by Federal registration permit. No person may take a cow accompanied by a calf. **The combined State/Federal September & December harvest may not exceed (# to be determined by ADF&G) moose. Federal public lands are closed to the taking of moose except by Federally-qualified subsistence users.** Dec. 1 - Dec. 31

Unit 22 (D) Remainder - 1 moose; however, antlerless moose may only be taken from Dec. 1-31; no person may take a cow accompanied by a calf Aug. 1 – Jan. 31

Unit 22 (E) - ~~1-moose bull~~; **Federal public lands are closed to the taking of moose except by Federally-qualified subsistence users.** Aug. 1 – ~~Mar 31~~ **Dec. 31**

Reason for changing the regulation: Reducing harvest will help conserve declining local moose populations, while still providing some subsistence harvest opportunities.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: Reducing the harvest will promote conservation of a declining moose population

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: Decreased harvest opportunities, but increased role in conserving local moose populations

Proposed by: Seward Peninsula Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Proposal 35

Existing regulation: Unit 22 - Moose

Unit 22 (B) – 1 bull	Aug. 1 – Dec. 1
Unit 22 (D) – That portion within the Kuzitrin River drainage - 1 antlered bull	Aug. 1 – Jan. 31
Unit 22 (D) Remainder - 1 moose; however, antlerless moose may only be taken from Dec. 1-31; no person may take a cow accompanied by a calf	Aug. 1 – Jan. 31
Unit 22 (E) - 1 moose; no person may take a cow accompanied by a calf	Aug. 1 – Mar. 31

Proposed regulation: Unit 22 - Moose

Unit 22 (B) – West of the Darby Mountains – 1 bull by State Registration Permit. The combined State/Federal harvest may not exceed 42 moose. Federal public lands are closed to the taking of moose except by Federally-qualified subsistence users.	Aug. 10 - Sept. 23
Unit 22 (B) – West of the Darby Mountains - 1 bull by either Federal or State Registration Permit. The total combined State/Federal harvest for both the Aug/Sept and January seasons may not exceed 48 moose. Federal public lands are closed to the taking of moose except by residents of White Mountain and Golovin.	Jan. 1- Jan. 31
Unit 22 (B) –Remainder – 1 bull	Aug. 1 – Dec. 1
Unit 22 (D) – That portion within the Kougarak, Kuzitrin and Pilgrim River drainages - 1 moose by Federal registration permit. The combined State/Federal harvest may not exceed 33 moose. Federal public lands are closed to the taking of moose except by residents of Unit 22(D).	Sept. 1 - Sept. 30
Unit 22 (D) – That portion west of the Tisuk River drainage and Canyon Creek - 1 bull by Federal registration permit -The combined State/Federal Sept. harvest may not exceed (# to be determined by ADF&G) moose.	Sept. 1 - Sept. 30

Unit 22 (D) – That portion west of the Tisuk River drainage and Canyon Creek - 1 moose by Federal registration permit. No person may take a cow accompanied by a calf. The combined State/Federal September & December harvest may not exceed (# to be determined by ADF&G) moose. Federal public lands are closed to the taking of moose except by **residents of Unit 22(D)**. Dec. 1 - Dec. 31

Unit 22 (D) Remainder - 1 moose; however, antlerless moose may only be taken from Dec. 1-31; no person may take a cow accompanied by a calf Aug. 1 – Jan. 31

Unit 22 (E) - 1 bull; Federal public lands are closed to the taking of moose except by Federally-qualified subsistence users. Aug. 1 – Dec. 31

Reason for changing the regulation: Restricting the harvest to residents of subunits 22(B) and (D) for areas where local moose populations are severely reduced would provide a subsistence priority to residents of these respective subunits.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: None

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: Decreased harvest opportunities for residents of Units 22(A), (C) and (E), but increased harvest opportunities for residents of Units 22(B) and (D)

Proposed by: Seward Peninsula Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Proposal 36

Existing regulation: Unit 22(E) - Moose & Muskox

There is no special provision in current regulations for the ceremonial taking of moose and muskox for Unit 22.

Proposed regulation:

§ __.26(m)(22)(iii) Unit-specific regulations:

(D) The taking of 1 moose (bull) and 1 muskox by the residents of Wales is allowed for the celebration of the Kingikmiut Dance Festival under the terms of a Federal registration permit. Permits will be issued to individuals only at the request of the Native Village of Wales. The harvest will occur between November 15 and December 31.

Reason for changing the regulation: Two years ago the village of Wales reinstituted the traditional cultural practice of celebrating Kingikmiut Dance Festival, not observed since the last dance festival 57 years ago. The purpose is to revive a traditional ceremonial practice and to provide meat for the ceremony.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: No effect is anticipated on the muskox population. No effect is anticipated on the moose population if the moose is taken as part of the established harvest quotas.

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: The proposed change will provide subsistence users in the Unit 22(E) communities an opportunity to share meat as a part of participating in a traditional ceremonial practice that they have been unable to participate in the past 57 years.

Additional information: The Kingikmiut Dance Festival has had traditional dance groups from Anchorage, Brevig Mission, Diomedes and King Island. We have participants from Nome, Shishmaref, Teller and other communities.

Proposed by: Toby Anungazuk, Jr. on behalf of the Native Village of Wales.

Proposal 37

Existing regulation: Units 22 & 23 (sw) - Muskox

Unit 22(B) - 1 bull by Federal permit or State Tier II permit. Federal public lands are closed to the taking of muskox except by Federally-qualified subsistence users. The total combined harvest may not exceed 8 bulls.	Aug. 1 - Mar. 15
Unit 22(D) – That portion west of the Tisuk River Drainage and Canyon Creek - 1 muskox by Federal permit or State Tier II permit; however, cows may only be taken during the period Jan. 1-Mar. 15. Federal public lands are closed to the taking of muskox except by Federally-qualified subsistence users. Not more than 3 cows may be taken, and the total combined harvest may not exceed 7 animals.	Aug. 1 - Mar. 15
Remainder of Unit 22(D) - 1 muskox by Federal permit or State Tier II permit; however, cows may only be taken during the period Jan. 1-Mar. 15. Federal public lands are closed to the taking of muskox except by Federally-qualified subsistence users. Not more than 13 cows may be taken, and the total combined harvest may not exceed 32 animals.	Aug. 1 - Mar. 15
Unit 22(E) - 1 muskox by Federal permit or State Tier II permit; however, cows may only be taken during the period Jan. 1-Mar. 15. Federal public lands are closed to the taking of muskox except by Federally-qualified subsistence users. Not more than 14 cows may be taken, and the total combined harvest may not exceed 23 animals.	Aug. 1 - Mar. 15
Remainder of Unit 22	No Federal open season
Unit 23 – south of Kotzebue Sound and west of and including the Buckland River drainage - 1 muskox by Federal permit or State Tier II permit; however, cows may only be taken during the period Jan. 1-Mar. 15. Federal public lands are closed to the taking of muskox except by Federally-qualified subsistence users. Not more than 8 cows may be taken, and the total combined harvest may not exceed 13 animals.	Aug. 1 - Mar. 15

Remainder of Unit 23

No Federal open season

Proposed regulation: Units 22 & 23 - Muskox

Unit 22(B) - 1 bull by Federal permit or State Tier II permit. Federal public lands are closed to the taking of muskox except by Federally-qualified subsistence users. ~~The total combined harvest may not exceed 8 bulls.~~

Aug. 1 - Mar. 15

Annual harvest quotas and any needed closures will be announced by the Superintendent of the Western Arctic National Parklands, in consultation the Alaska Department of Fish & Game and BLM.

Unit 22(D) – That portion west of the Tisuk River Drainage and Canyon Creek - 1 muskox by Federal permit or State Tier II permit; however, cows may only be taken during the period Jan. 1-Mar. 15. Federal public lands are closed to the taking of muskox except by Federally-qualified subsistence users. ~~Not more than 3 cows may be taken, and the total combined harvest may not exceed 7 animals.~~

Aug. 1 - Mar. 15

Annual harvest quotas and any needed closures will be announced by the Superintendent of the Western Arctic National Parklands, in consultation the Alaska Department of Fish & Game and BLM.

Remainder of Unit 22(D) - 1 muskox by Federal permit or State Tier II permit; however, cows may only be taken during the period Jan. 1-Mar. 15. Federal public lands are closed to the taking of muskox except by Federally-qualified subsistence users. ~~Not more than 13 cows may be taken, and the total combined harvest may not exceed 32 animals.~~

Aug. 1 - Mar. 15

Annual harvest quotas and any needed closures will be announced by the Superintendent of the Western Arctic National Parklands, in consultation the Alaska Department of Fish & Game and BLM.

Unit 22(E) - 1 muskox by Federal permit or State Tier II permit; however, cows may only be taken during the period Jan. 1-Mar. 15. Federal public lands are closed to the taking of muskox except by Federally-qualified subsistence users. ~~Not more than 14 cows may be taken, and the total combined harvest may not exceed 23 animals.~~

Aug. 1 - Mar. 15

Annual harvest quotas and any needed closures will be announced by

**the Superintendent of the Western Arctic National
Parklands, in consultation the Alaska Department of Fish & Game.**

Unit 23 – south of Kotzebue Sound and west of Aug. 1 - Mar. 15
and including the Buckland River drainage - 1 muskox
by Federal permit or State Tier II permit; however,
cows may only be taken during the period Jan. 1-Mar. 15.
Federal public lands are closed to the taking of muskox
except by Federally-qualified subsistence users. ~~Not more
than 8 cows may be taken, and the total combined
harvest may not exceed 13 animals.~~ **Annual harvest
quotas and any needed closures will be announced by
the Superintendent of the Western Arctic National
Parklands, in consultation the Alaska Department of Fish & Game.**

Remainder of Unit 23

No Federal open season

Reason for changing the regulation: Federal and State wildlife managers agree that the muskox population can sustain a higher harvest rate of 8% (including 4% cows) in Unit 22(E), while remaining healthy and with continued growth consistent with management objectives expressed by Seward Peninsula Muskox Cooperators Group. Delegating the determination of annual quotas and potential follow-up harvest closures to the Superintendent of the Western Arctic Parklands, in consultation with ADF&G and BLM would build in flexibility. Local harvest quotas have been continually changing, due to new population counts and changes by the Seward Peninsula Muskox Cooperators, which can involve complex coordination in a harvest managed jointly with the State.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: This increase in harvest or delegation of management authority will likely not significantly effect the health or continued growth of the local muskox population.

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: Increase subsistence harvest opportunities

Proposed by: Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory Council

Proposal 38

Existing regulation: Units 23 and 26(A) - Sheep

§___.26(m)(23) and (26) For the Baird and DeLong Mountain sheep hunts - A Federally-qualified subsistence user (recipient) may designate another Federally-qualified subsistence user to take sheep on his or her behalf unless the recipient is a member of a community operating under a community harvest system. The designated hunter must obtain a designated hunter permit and must return a completed harvest report. The designated hunter may hunt for any number or recipients, but may have no more than two harvest limits in his/her possession at any one time.

Proposed regulation:Units 23 and 26(A) - Sheep

§___.26(m)(23) and (26) ~~For the Baird and DeLong Mountain sheep hunts—A Federally-qualified subsistence user (recipient) may designate another Federally-qualified subsistence user to take sheep on his or her behalf unless the recipient is a member of a community operating under a community harvest system. The designated hunter must obtain a designated hunter permit and must return a completed harvest report. The designated hunter may hunt for any number or recipients, but may have no more than two harvest limits in his/her possession at any one time.~~

Remove the above regulation

Reason for changing the regulation: A recent abuse within the system has prompted a request for its removal.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: None

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: Subsistence users already share meat, so a designated hunter system is not necessary.

Proposed by: Northwest Arctic Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Proposal 39

Existing regulation: Units 23 and 26 - Sheep

Unit 23 - south of Rabbit Creek, Kyak Creek and the Noatak River, and west of the Cutler and Redstone Rivers (Baird Mountains) - 1 ram with full curl or larger horns by Federal registration permit. The Superintendent of the Western Arctic National Parklands may issue permits for the harvest of up to 20 full curl rams, based on a quota to be announced locally after the annual sheep population survey is completed. Federal public lands are closed to the taking of sheep except by Federally-qualified users.

Unit 23 - north of Rabbit Creek, Kyak Creek and the Noatak River, and west of the Aniuk River (DeLong Mountains) - 1 ram with full curl or larger horns by Federal registration permit. The Superintendent of the Western Arctic National Parklands may issue permits for the harvest of up to 10 full curl rams in the DeLong Mountains, Units 23 and 26(A), based on a quota to be announced locally after the annual sheep population survey is completed.

Unit 26(A) - that portion west of Howard Pass and Etivluk River (DeLong Mountains) - 1 ram with full curl or larger horns by Federal registration permit. The Superintendent of the Western Arctic National Parklands may issue permits for the harvest of up to 10 full curl rams in the DeLong Mountains, Units 23 and 26(A), based on a quota to be announced locally after the annual sheep population survey is completed.

Aug. 1-Sept 30. The season will be closed when half of total quota of sheep has been harvested.

Oct. 1- Apr. 1. The season will be closed when the total quota of sheep has been harvested incl. those harvested during the Aug. 1- Sept. 30 season.

Aug. 1-Sept 30. The season will be closed when half of the total quota of sheep has been harvested in the DeLong Mtns.

Oct. 1- Apr. 1. The season will be closed when the total quota of sheep has been harvested in the DeLong Mtns. incl. those harvested during the Aug. 1-Sept. 30 season.

Aug. 1-Sept 30. The season will be closed when half of the total quota of sheep has been harvested in the DeLong Mtns.

Oct. 1- Apr. 1. The season will be closed when the total quota of sheep has been harvested in the DeLong Mtns. incl. those harvested during the Aug. 1-Sept. 30 season.

Proposed regulation: Units 23 and 26 - Sheep

Unit 23 - south of Rabbit Creek, Kyak Creek and the Noatak River, and west of the Cutler and Redstone Rivers (Baird Mountains) - 1 ram with full curl or larger horns by Federal registration permit. The Superintendent of the Western Arctic National Parklands ~~may issue permits for the harvest of up to 20 full curl rams, based on a quota to be announced locally after the annual sheep population survey is completed.~~ **will announce the harvest quota locally prior to each season.** Federal public lands are closed to the taking of sheep except by Federally-qualified users. **The trophy value of the horns must be destroyed upon return from the field by the NPS or an NPS representative.**

Unit 23 - north of Rabbit Creek, Kyak Creek and the Noatak River, and west of the Aniuk River (DeLong Mountains) - 1 ram with full curl or larger horns by Federal registration permit. The Superintendent of the Western Arctic National Parklands ~~may issue permits for the harvest of up to 10 full curl rams in the~~ **will announce the harvest quota for the** DeLong Mountains, Units 23 and 26(A), ~~based on a quota to be announced locally after the annual sheep population survey is completed.~~ **prior to each season. The trophy value of the horns must be destroyed upon return from the field by NPS or an NPS representative.**

Unit 26(A) - that portion west of Howard Pass and Etivluk River (DeLong Mountains) - 1 ram the with full curl or larger horns by Federal registration permit. The Superintendent of the Western Arctic National Parklands ~~may issue permits for the harvest of up to~~ **will announce the harvest quota for the**

~~Aug. 1-Sept 30. The season will be closed when half of total quota of sheep has been harvested.~~

~~Oct. 1-Apr. 1. The season will be closed when the total quota of sheep has been harvested incl. those harvested during the Aug. 1-Sept. 30 season.~~ **The winter season to be announced by the Superintendent of the Western Arctic National Parklands, but will start no later than December 1.**

~~Aug. 1-Sept 30. The season will be closed when half of the total quota of sheep has been harvested in the DeLong Mtns.~~

~~Oct. 1-Apr. 1. The season will be closed when the total quota of sheep has been harvested in the DeLong Mtns. incl. those harvested during the Aug. 1-Sept. 30 season.~~ **The winter season to be announced by the Superintendent of the Western Arctic National Parklands, but will start no later than December 1.**

~~Aug. 1-Sept 30. The season will be closed when half of the total quota of sheep has been harvested in the DeLong Mtns.~~

~~10 full curl rams in the DeLong Mountains, Units 23 and 26(A), based on a quota to be announced locally after the annual sheep population survey is completed.~~
prior to each season. The trophy value of the horns must be destroyed upon return from the field by NPS or an NPS representative.

~~Oct. 1- Apr. 1. The season will be closed when the total quota of sheep has been harvested in the DeLong Mtns. incl. those harvested during the Aug. 1- Sept. 30 season.~~
The winter season to be announced by the Superintendent of the Western Arctic National Parklands, but will start no later than December 1.

Reason for changing the regulation: To prevent trophy sport hunting from occurring during the Federal subsistence hunt. Letting the Park Superintendent announce the harvest quotas and dates of the winter season would allow annual flexibility to provide conservation of the resource while still allowing a subsistence priority.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: Conservation of the resource

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: Allow subsistence harvest opportunities during a time when conservation of the resource is still needed.

Proposed by: Northwest Arctic Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Proposal 40

Existing regulation: Unit 23 - Moose

None

Proposed regulation:

§__.26(m)(23)(ii)(C) The Selawik Controlled Use Area is closed for the period August 1 - October 31 to the use of aircraft in any manner either for hunting of caribou and moose, or for the transportation of hunters or harvested species. This does not apply to the transportation of hunters or parts of ungulates by regularly scheduled flights to communities by carriers that normally provide scheduled air service. The area consists of the a five-mile zone on either side of: the Selawik River, from the mouth to Ingruksuruk Creek, and the Kugarak River from the Selawik to the intersections with Kerchurak Creek and Rabbit River, within the boundaries of the Selawik National Wildlife Refuge.

Reason for changing the regulation: Too many boats have been returning home empty handed from hunting in an area they have traditionally hunted because of aircraft traffic. With gas prices being at \$3.50 per gallon and unemployment the highest in the region, this is fast becoming an untenable situation.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: Lower harvest due to aircraft restrictions limiting guided and air charter hunting.

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: Less competition with aircraft restrictions limiting guided and air charter hunting.

Proposed by: Native Village of Selawik

Proposal 41

Existing regulation: Unit 23 - Lynx (Trapping)

3 lynx.

Dec. 1 - Jan. 15.

Proposed regulation: Unit 23 - Lynx (Trapping)

3 10 lynx.

Dec. 1 - Jan. 15.

Reason for changing the regulation: The rabbit population is reaching a high point and there is evidence from Selawik and Noorvik that the lynx population has increased coincidentally.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: None.

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: The incidental catch of lynx in wolverine and wolf traps has increased. This increase in lynx harvest will help subsistence users.

Proposed by: Roswell L. Schaeffer, Sr., Kotzebue

Proposal 42

Existing regulation: Unit 20(E) - Caribou

Unit 20(E) - 1 caribou by joint State/Federal registration permit only. The fall season will close when a combined State/Federal harvest of 320 caribou has been reached. The winter season will close when the combined quota of 210 caribou for Units 20(E) and 25(C) Remainder has been reached. The season closures will be announced by the Northern Field Office Manager, Bureau of Land Management after consultation with the National Park Service and Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Aug. 10 - Sept. 30.
Nov. 1 - Feb. 28.

Proposed regulation: Unit 20(E) - Caribou

Unit 20(E) - 1 caribou by joint State/Federal registration permit only. The fall season will close when a combined State/Federal harvest of ~~320~~ **355** caribou has been reached. The winter season will close when the combined quota of ~~210~~ **240** caribou for Units 20(E) and 25(C) Remainder has been reached. The season closures will be announced by the Northern Field Office Manager, Bureau of Land Management after consultation with the National Park Service and Alaska Department of Fish and Game. **During the winter season, area closures or hunt restrictions may be announced, when Nelchina caribou are present in a mix of $\leq 1:15$ Nelchina to Fortymile.**

Aug. 10 - Sept. 30.
Nov. 1 - Feb. 28.

Reason for changing the regulation: The proposed change would protect Nelchina herd caribou from non-sustainable harvest in Unit 20(E). Current Nelchina herd trends are stable to declining and the herd numbers are at the minimum herd objective. All sustainable harvest is occurring prior to the herd reaching Unit 20(E) during Federal and State hunts in Units 12 and 13. The harvest of Nelchina caribou in Unit 20(E) also reduces opportunity for harvest of Fortymile caribou by qualified federal hunters in other portions of the Fortymile Caribou Herd range. Since 1998, Nelchina caribou have utilized southern Unit 20(E) within the Ladue and Dennison River drainages during November through April. Current bag limits and seasons for Nelchina caribou do not account for additional harvest from this herd in Unit 20(E). During the November 1999 season in Unit 20(E), under the less liberal winter quota of 50 bulls from the Fortymile herd, Nelchina caribou were harvested. The Fortymile caribou bag limit has been changed to one caribou. Either sex harvest places an additional burden on the declining Nelchina population. Allowing for a temporary area closure, south of Mt. Fairplay, for example, protects Nelchina caribou from over-harvest and allows for harvest of Fortymile caribou up to the quota. Population objective for the Nelchina Caribou Herd is 35,000 to 40,000 animals. Population

estimates for the herd are below the minimum level. Calf and adult survival rates remain low and the population cannot support additional harvest.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: A temporary area closure to protect Nelchina caribou and to preserve the quota for Fortymile caribou will have positive impacts on these two populations. The Nelchina harvest will be held at a level to promote herd recovery to meet population objectives. Fortymile caribou will continue to be harvested under the current quota.

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: Rural residents with a customary and traditional use determination for Fortymile Herd Caribou will continue to benefit from the recovery of this herd, after 5 years of reduced harvest during implementation of the Fortymile Caribou Herd Management Plan. Rural residents with a customary and traditional use determination for Nelchina Herd Caribou will benefit by harvest remaining within sustainable levels. Nelchina caribou protected within Unit 20(E) will contribute to the long term productivity of that herd.

Additional information:

Proposed by: Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council

Proposal 43

Existing regulation: Unit 20(E) - Moose

Unit 20(E) - that portion drained by the
Forty-mile River (all forks) from Mile 9½ to
Mile 145 Taylor Highway, including the
Boundary Cutoff Road - 1 antlered bull;
however during the period Aug. 20 - Aug. 28
only a bull with spike/fork antlers may be taken.

Aug. 20 - Aug. 28.
Sept. 1 - Sept. 15.

Proposed regulation: Unit 20(E) - Moose

Unit 20(E) - that portion drained by the
Forty-mile River (all forks) from Mile 9½ to
Mile 145 Taylor Highway, including the
Boundary Cutoff Road - 1 antlered bull;
~~however during the period Aug. 20 - Aug. 28~~
~~only a bull with spike/fork antlers may be taken.~~

Aug. 20 ~~24~~ - Aug. 28.
Sept. 1 - Sept. 15.

Reason for changing the regulation: The proposed change would liberalize harvest opportunities for subsistence users by aligning the August Federal season with State season and bag limit. A change to one bull from the current spike-fork antlers restriction allows subsistence hunters to harvest any bull moose, regardless of antler size. Aligning of the Federal and State August season shortens the Federal season by 4 days at the beginning and will reduce enforcement issues. The Federal September season begins 7 days before the State season and no changes are suggested for this season. This allows for a priority opportunity for federally qualified hunters to harvest moose.

Regulations on State lands require the hunter to choose to hunt either a moose or caribou. Once the permit had been returned, the hunter can register to hunt the other species. This regulation does not apply to Federally qualified hunters on Federal lands.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: The proposed change is not expected to have additional impacts on the moose populations within Unit 20(E). Bull numbers (40 - 50 bulls:100 cows) are adequate to sustain the expected harvest. The moose population is stable at 0.5 - 0.6 moose/mi².

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: Subsistence users will no longer be restricted to spike-fork antlered bulls during the August hunt in Unit 20(E). The proposed alignment to the State season results in the loss of 4 days of hunting on Federal lands at the beginning of the August season. However, no spike/fork bulls have been harvested during this season on Federal lands since 1996. Spike/fork bulls represent only 10 - 11% of the bull population. Relaxing the bag limit to one bull will allow greater opportunity for success for the subsistence hunter.

Additional information: The proposed change will increase opportunity to harvest moose in Game Management Unit 20(E) by changing the August season to one bull moose, from the

current spike-fork antler restriction. This proposal also aligns the State and Federal August season. The current Federal season is August 20 - 28 and the state season is August 24 - 28.

Proposed by: Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council

Proposal 44

Existing regulation: Unit 26(A) - Moose

The **Unit 26(A) Controlled Use Area**, which consists of Unit 26(A), is closed to the use of aircraft in any manner for moose hunting, including the transportation of moose hunters or parts of moose from Aug. 1- Aug. 31 and from Jan. 1 - Mar. 31. No hunter may take or transport a moose, or part of a moose in Unit 26(A) after having been transported by aircraft into the unit. However, this does not apply to transportation of moose hunters or moose parts by regularly scheduled flights to and between village by carriers that normally provide scheduled service to this area, nor does it apply to transportation by aircraft to or between publicly owned aircraft.

Proposed regulation: Unit 26(A) - Moose

The **Unit 26(A) Controlled Use Area**, which consists of Unit 26(A), is closed to the use of aircraft in any manner for moose hunting, including the transportation of moose hunters or parts of moose from Aug. 1- ~~Aug. 31~~ **Sept. 14** and from Jan. 1 - Mar. 31. No hunter may take or transport a moose, or part of a moose in Unit 26(A) after having been transported by aircraft into the unit. However, this does not apply to transportation of moose hunters or moose parts by regularly scheduled flights to and between village by carriers that normally provide scheduled service to this area, nor does it apply to transportation by aircraft to or between publicly owned aircraft.

Reason for changing the regulation: To extend the season for aircraft restrictions in Unit 26(A) to parallel proposed changes in the moose harvest season. This one prevents disturbance by aircraft during subsistence harvest activities. This is a parallel proposal to one submitted to the Alaska Board of Game, Fall 2001 (Proposal # 38).

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: Moose numbers have increased along core portion of the Coville River drainage, so that a limited increase in moose harvest season is possible without detracting from the continued population recovery. Matching the dates for the Unit 26(A) CUA aircraft restrictions to the proposed extended moose season would not directly effect moose populations.

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: Prevent aircraft disturbance during subsistence moose harvest activities

Additional information:

Proposed by: North Slope Regional Advisory Council

Proposal 45

Existing regulation: Unit 26(A) - Moose

Unit 26(A) - that portion of the Colville River drainage downstream from the mouth of the Anaktuvuk River - 1 bull. Federal public lands are closed to the taking of moose by non-Federally qualified users. Aug. 1-31.

Proposed regulation: Unit 26(A) - Moose

Unit 26(A) - that portion of the Colville River drainage downstream from ~~the mouth of the Anaktuvuk River~~ **and including the Chandler River**- 1 bull. Federal public lands are closed to the taking of moose by non-Federally qualified users. Aug. 1-~~31~~ **Sept. 14.**

Reason for changing the regulation: To increase subsistence opportunities by extending the harvest area and season. This is a parallel proposal to one submitted to the Alaska Board of Game, Fall 2001 (Proposal #26).

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: Moose numbers have increased along core portion of the Coville River drainage, so that a limited increase in bull harvest is possible without detracting from the continued population recovery.

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: Increase in harvest opportunities

Additional information:

Proposed by: North Slope Regional Advisory Council

Proposal 46 (Deferred Proposal 2001-46 C & T)

Existing regulation: Unit 26(B) - Muskox

C & T - Unit 26(B) - Residents of Anaktuvuk Pass, Nuiqsut, and Kaktovik.

Proposed regulation: Unit 26(B) - Muskox

C & T - Unit 26(B) - Residents of **Unit 26(B)**, Anaktuvuk Pass, Nuiqsut, and Kaktovik.

Reason for changing the regulation: Around 1988 regulations were changed for muskox hunting on the North Slope of the Brooks Range. Prior to the change, all residents were allowed to hunt muskox in GMU 26(C). Now residents of neighboring units (GMU 26(B)) can no longer get a permit to harvest muskox.

Effect of change on fish and wildlife populations: GMU 26(B) has a very good population of muskox. The State Board of Game recently authorized up to 45 muskox limit per year yet manager have only allowed a portion of these muskox to be harvested throughout GMU 26(A), (B), and (C). The small numbers of qualified rural residents in GMU 26(B) would have little or no impact on the muskox population.

Effect of proposed change on subsistence users: Residents of GMU 26(B) will once more be allowed to harvest muskox that they once relied upon. Barter Island residents will not be affected nor will Nuiqsut residents. Both these villages are outside GMU 26(B).

Communities which have used this resource: Happy Valley Camp.

Where the resource has been harvested: White Hills (Toolik and Kuparuk Rivers); Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; Ivisak and Ribdon Rivers, Dalton Highway Corridor; Sag River.

When the resource has been harvested: September, October, March.

Additional information:

Proposed by: Dave Neel, Dalton Highway